

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Assembly and Senate Elected Officials

ASSEMBLY MEMBER WOLK: Yes, good afternoon. My name is Lois Wolk; and I represent Yolo and Solano in District 8 in the Assembly.

I'm here this morning -- this afternoon to highly recommend two excellent library projects in my district: The Fairfield-Cordelia proposal and the West Sacramento proposal.

With me -- and I'm sure they'll be speaking later -- are elected officials from both of the jurisdictions. And they'll be speaking later.

I'd like to encourage you to look at the Fairfield-Cordelia Project that was rated by your staff as "outstanding." There is no full-service branch that is available in an extraordinarily exploding, growing area, which is geographically isolated. It, of course, has all of the collaboration that you would like to see between the city, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, the library, of course, and the county schools. It is ready to go. I would encourage you to look at that.

I also would like to encourage you to look at the West Sacramento Community Library Project. It has been rated by your staff as "very good" for this cycle. But I would like to draw some attention to the fact that the West Sacramento Community Library is designed to serve, in addition to a fast-growing area, it also, in Yolo County, is the area that has the highest economically-disadvantaged population; the most ethnically-diverse population.

It also is a tribute to good planning. It is in an area that will have a senior center, teen center. It will also -- it certainly has a brand-new civic center for the West Sacramento City Council and government. It is an excellent good planning in the center of the downtown; and, by the way, was supported strongly by a sales tax passed by the citizenry.

So I know you have a difficult job. Frankly, the numbers of people who are here is a good testimony for the fact that we need another library bond in the State of California. Thank you very much.

I know these are hard decisions, but think of these two.

Thanks.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Assemblywoman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PAVLEY: Yes, thank you -- is this on? It's lit up, in red.

Is that coming through? Should I go on to the other mike?

This one should be working, since Assembly Member Wolk warmed it up.

Thank you very much. It's a pleasure for me to be here today. I'm from the 41st Assembly District; and I'm here in very strong support of the application of the Calabasas Library grant.

Calabasas is a city in my district; and I'm very, very familiar with Calabasas for several reasons. My back yard fence line is the city limits of Calabasas. I've been a long-time teacher and council member in the general area; and my husband is a teacher in the Los Virgenes School District.

Last year, you heard at length an application from Calabasas; and it was rated "outstanding" last year, as well as this year. But there was one component that was missing. And since that time, Calabasas has before you today, again, an application that's been rated "outstanding," and is even stronger because of the MOU and joint venture agreement they've signed with the Los Virgenes School District.

This area is very interesting. It's a fast-growing area. Most of the area exploded in growth in the eighties and early nineties. It's underserved in library capacity.

Like many, many areas in California, families have either single parents or both parents working all the time. And there is a tremendous need for school-age students to have a place to go after school, where they can focus in on their homework, so that they can do the very best they can.

What the Calabasas Library Grant Application proposes in their MOU with the school district, is establishing an after-school homework center in the library, which will be, I know right off the bat, extremely popular, as well as very well needed. They also have come -- have implemented a transit; they have a very popular trolley program that will facilitate kids moving, particularly in the middle school, after school to their library. They will be coordinating with the school district, as far as linking to teacher's Web sites for homework, the school district providing textbooks. All the textbooks that elementary, middle school and high school kids would have need for in this particular city library. It has wonderful opportunities for peerage tutoring and

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

cross-tutoring, with help from assistance of, not only school officials, but parents in the community. I believe this is a very outstanding application. It meets all your criteria. And I urge your support.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYMAN COGDILL: Thank you very much. And good afternoon.

My name is Dave Cogdill; and I represent the 25th Assembly District of this great state, which is a very, very rural area, but it's also, I think, the most beautiful part of the state. And I'm here today to lend my support to an application that's been made by the Mammoth Lakes Community for a library in that small town on the east side of the Sierras.

I say "small town," although it has grown significantly over the last few years -- I think some 180 percent growth over the last ten years. It's a community that has a full-time population of about 7,000 people; but it swells during the height of the ski season to over 53,000 people. It has for all these years been providing the needs of its citizenry, with a library, of 5,000 square feet, and is obviously in need of a major expansion of that facility.

The school board has entered into an agreement with the board of supervisors and the library board in Mono County to place this facility in such a way to make maximum use of the resources that they have available. It would be put on an educational campus with easy access, not only to the elementary school and the middle school and the high school, but also to the expanding junior college facility in that area.

I know that it's relatively down -- far down on your priority list; but it's in an area that obviously is very rural and very much in need and one that has historically made great use of the limited resources that it's been able to get from the State of California.

For those reasons, I certainly strongly support the application; and look forward to working with you and your staff on anything that we might be able to do to further this process, and hopefully, ultimately achieve a grant to provide them with the funds necessary to build this very important multi-use facility.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Assemblyman, one second, sir.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment***

In terms of priorities, each of these libraries are top priority with us. These evaluations and categories only relate to technical aspects, not to priorities. In terms of the value to its community and to the people of the community and to the state, each of these are A-1 candidates. So yours is as top priority as anyone; and we hope to bring it up further technically, if it's not adopted today.

ASSEMBLYMAN COGDILL: Great. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

CHAIR STARR: Thanks.

Any other elected officials?

MR. HARVEY: Does retirement count to come on up?

CHAIR STARR: Yes, it does.

MR. HARVEY: I'm Trice Harvey from Kern County, retired, 32nd Assembly District. They couldn't beat me; term limits got me.

I would like to point out that I'm happy to be here today because the area that I represented ten years as a county board of supervisors and ten years as state assemblyman, is Frazier Park, the gateway to San Joaquin Valley, from L.A., and the gateway to Southern California if you're coming in from the Valley. It's a small little community. Up there, it's a beautiful little community. They fought hard to finally get a high school a few years ago. They have been fighting hard to have a better library. We have no library. I've tried this for over 20 years from both positions of the county supervisors and the state Legislature; and I think we finally got an "outstanding" rating. Number 4 on the list, whatever that's worth. I hope that's important.

Anyway, I just want to say, I'm happy that we finally got to this point. We hope that you look at it very seriously because we're 62 miles from Bakersfield; and we're a few miles from L.A. But we're sort of in between everything; and we're sort of where everybody comes and goes from there. But it's a community that has a lot of poor children. We've got a great relationship with the El Cajon Unified School District to work with them.

And I see heads shaking. You know all of this. So, hey, help us. Thank you.

[Laughter]

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Assemblyman.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Senator?

MR. RAINEY: Well, since you allow retired people to come up, too, I will step forward. My name is Dick Rainey, former senator. And I had the honor of being the author of this bill that became the bond.

[Applause]

MR. RAINEY: Unfortunately, we didn't get any points for that on the score.

[Laughter]

MR. RAINEY: So maybe we can.

Actually, after I introduced the bill in the Senate, and with my co-author, Senator Dede Alpert, I started touring libraries in the state of California. And, obviously, one of the libraries I toured was the library in Walnut Creek; and that was exactly the kind of library that I was thinking about when I introduced this bill. It's a library that has been in place for a very long time, and just is not able to serve the community now.

I think in the criteria, one of the things was the amount of growth. But that growth was since 1981. This library was built in 1961, when the City of Walnut Creek was 10,000 population. It is now 65,000 population. In fact, it serves much greater area even than that. So it has had a tremendous amount of growth. But in the criteria, that wasn't considered because of the shorter time frame. Basically, Walnut Creek is built out now, so it hasn't grown that much in the last ten or twenty years.

The other thing that I would like to point out is that the City of Walnut Creek has passed a parcel tax that passed with 69 percent of the vote for the operations of the library. So they are ready to go and they have the wherewithal to keep the library running.

Another thing is, we don't want people to have the impression that, you know, Walnut Creek is going to build this, even if we don't get this money; because that is not the case. We definitely need this grant to be able to build that library. It is extremely important to the community; and we would urge you to take that into consideration when you're looking at all of the different applicants.

Thank you very much.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Senator.

ASSEMBLYMAN NATION: Mr. Chair and Members, thank you. It's a great pleasure to be here today.

I'm here on behalf of the San Rafael Pickleweed Library Project. It is a 1.288 million --

CHAIR STARR: Sir, would you identify yourself?

ASSEMBLYMAN NATION: I'm sorry. Joe Nation, I represent the Sixth Assembly District. And I apologize for dressing down today. I am here to support the San Rafael Pickleweed Library Project. And it's a 1.28 million-dollar request.

Since 1997, the San Rafael Public Library has operated a smallest satellite library center, 526 square feet at the Pickleweed Park Community Center, in the canal neighborhood of San Rafael. With the planned expansion of the community center comes an opportunity to expand library service to canal residents.

Based on community input, the San Rafael Pickleweed Library will expand to 2,185 square feet in order to provide four things:

First, expanded homework center.

Second, a computer lab.

Third, a family literacy program.

And fourth, increased materials, hours of service and staffing.

The canal neighborhood is not what you would expect in very affluent Marin County. It is home to 20 percent of the population of San Rafael. The people of the Canal are characterized as low-income, working families from diverse ethnic backgrounds by the Canal Community Alliance, which is a key service organization in the area.

The 2000 census reports that -- and I'd have to make a little comment here that there's a production in Marin that talks about the diversity or lack of diversity in county and they say that we come in every shade of white.

That is not exactly the case, certainly not in the canal. I'll give you some information that I'll provide that's not the case.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

The 2000 Census reports that 11 percent of Marin County residents are Hispanics or Latino. That percentage jumps to 23.23 percent for the City of San Rafael. And in the Canal neighborhood, it's 70.1 percent. So this area is predominantly Latino. Asians comprise about 5 percent of the population countywide. In the Canal area, it's about 8 percent.

Characteristics of this neighborhood are not generally associated with Marin. High density, low literacy, high poverty, low educational attainment, a high percentage of renters and low school performances.

Nearly 12,000 people live in a very small area. Within the county-wide Marin literacy program, 44 percent of the participants reside in the Canal area. So almost half of them are in this very small area.

The 1990 Census reported a 20 percent poverty rate for the Canal community. It's probably a little bit higher than that in the most recent census.

In the 1990 Census, 34 percent of adults had less than a high school education; and about a quarter of them had less than a ninth-grade education.

And as I mentioned before, there's a very high percentage of renters there.

This is what I believe is an urban environment in a suburban area. And I would ask for your consideration of this project.

Mayor Boro from San Rafael is here; and he will be able to provide information for you on the demographics. And, again, I would urge your approval of the San Rafael Pickleweed Library Project.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Senator.

MR. GRANLUND: Good afternoon. I'm retired Assemblyman Brett Granlund from the 65th Assembly District; and I'm here to support the Hesperia application. And the mayor and several city staff are here. And at an appropriate time, if there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them for you.

This is the project that you saw last cycle; and the application has been approved. Its merits were weaker in the last application. This is truly a project that's

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

a community project. They've raised money with citizens and kids bringing in their piggy bank money and they've done a great job within the city to promote this library, and we hope that we will have your support today.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much, Assemblyman.

Senator?

MEMBER ALPERT: I would like to speak, actually, on behalf of Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe. I won't actually try and make her comments. But Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe represents the San Diego area. She was planning on being here to support the San Diego project for the main library. Because of the fire and her duties in San Diego, she was unable to come. But she did want me to express to the Board her unwavering support, and that she had -- otherwise, she would have been here to testify on behalf of her own.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much.

....

Public Comment

MS. FARGO: Thank you and good afternoon. And welcome to Sacramento, for those of you that are not from Sacramento.

My name is Heather Fargo; and I'm the mayor of the City of Sacramento and I'm here today to speak on behalf of a project in North Natomas, a project which we think should have been scored higher, a project we will be resubmitting next year, and a project which we would like you to give very serious consideration to because we think it meets your criteria incredibly well. We could have chosen a number of libraries in our very diverse system. We chose this project because it meets the criteria we believe.

Just to recap briefly because I have a few other elected officials here with me that are also going to speak on this project, we feel that this project meets one of your criteria, which is the high rate of population growth. North Natomas, between 1980 and 2020, is experiencing a 9,628 percent population growth. We think that should be scored high.

We also have a co-located joint use library here. We have not only the City of

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

Sacramento, the Natomas Unified School District, the Los Rios Community College District and the County of Sacramento as a player within our joint powers authority, all contributing money towards this project.

The City of Sacramento is contributing 3.78 million dollars in matching funds, already in the bank. We also are contributing 700,000 annually in operating funds. And we have support from the community college district, the school district as well, in order to keep the library open as long as possible.

I think the most important point, other than that, is that there is no library currently in the area. This is a community which will have 65,000 people at build-out; and the location of this project we think is incredible because it's at the town center. We have focused the development of North Natomas around an education center, which will have not only a high school, a junior college, but a library, which will be supporting the city residents, as well as the students of the community. We think it's a great project; and we think it's worthy of your very high consideration.

And with that, I'd like to introduce Roger Dickenson, the County Supervisor for Natomas.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

MR. DICKENSON: Mr. Chairman, Members, thank you. I am Roger Dickenson, a member of the County Board of Supervisors -- and welcome to the first supervisorial district of Sacramento. And this location is also in the supervisorial district that I represent.

I think the Mayor has made the most cogent points. Let me just simply add that I also serve as member of the Public Library Authority Board, and I'm a past chair of that board; and also a member of the Sacramento Regional Transit Board, and a past three-time chair of that board.

We have located this library in a place and with the partners that, in my judgment, with the technology that is included, make it the candidate for a poster child for this funding source. And to say that it is a disappointment to see its rating is an understatement of gross magnitude.

We hope that you will take a careful look at this particular proposal which brings together so many elements that your Act calls out for; and, in fact, incorporates them entirely. Thank you for your time.

I also want to call to your attention, as I hope you'll have an opportunity to see,

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

an editorial from The Sacramento Bee this morning in support of this project, and just let you know, by the time you drive to Sacramento International Airport and return, you will have seen several thousand more people living in North Natomas.

[Laughter]

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Supervisor.

MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon, Board. It's a pleasure to be here. My name is Gary Davis. I'm the Board president of the Natomas Unified School District Board of Trustees.

I'm not going to repeat the points that the Mayor or Supervisor made. Let me just say that I'm glad I'm not in your shoes this afternoon. As much as it's difficult making tough budget decisions at the local school board level, I'm glad I'm not sitting in your shoes.

I won't repeat the Mayor's points; but let me just say a couple of quick things. Three years ago, four agency heads of the various partners of this project got together and they said, "We're going to change the way we do business. We're going to go against the odds and do something that's very difficult for a bureaucracy sometimes to do, and that's to give up a little bit of control in an effort to maximize the use of public resources and to provide the most number of services with the least amount of money." And just a couple of years ago, the Los Rios Community College District sold this idea to voters in the region when they passed a bond measure overwhelmingly.

Just last year, residents of the Natomas School District passed Measure M, with which is a bond measure with 73 percent of the vote, and a very, very large part of that bond measure was the idea that they would be funding this joint use project.

Inderkum High School is now 60 percent complete and scheduled to be open in the fall of next year. Los Rios Community College District is in the financing stage of project and will break ground in December. Any delay in funding for the library will set the entire project back, make the project more expensive, because roads and sidewalks will have to be dug up and relaid, and where will our high school and community college -- let me ask you this, too. Where will our high school and community college students -- what will they use for a library?

We do have a backup plan in Natomas Unified School District, and that's that if this library is not funded, we're going to put a few books in an art room. And whereas that will work probably for a year or two, I've got to tell you that we're growing rapidly,

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

and we're going to have to use that art room for art very, very soon.

So just to tell you today, and I leave you with three final points:

One, please don't let the students of Inderkum High School and American River College down by not funding their library.

Secondly, please don't let the public and the Sacramento region down by telling them that they cannot have what they have bought into time and time again by passing various bond measures.

Three, please don't tell the four public agency heads that have changed the way they do business and taken a leap of faith to try and maximize public resources by doing business differently, if their efforts cannot come true.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Superintendent.

MS. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is Marie Smith. I'm president of the American River College, which is the community college partner in the Natomas Library project.

Before I say something about American River, I would like to also point out that the City of Sacramento passed an assessment several years ago, so that there is an assessment that every household pays for the operation of this library that is separate from the capital needs of the project.

Back to American River, at its build-out, this regional center will serve 3,000 students. There is no library facility, other than the one planned here. It would be of great benefit to our students to have this library to be in partnership, because we did and we will provide services to the library in terms of technology, also in terms of career counseling, and other services to the community, as well as to the students of Inderkum High School.

This project builds on all of the criteria of this Board; and it is the best of joint use projects in terms of use of facilities, in terms of joint partnership between city and public schools and community colleges. And it provides the best and highest use of public dollars.

I urge your support. Thank you.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon, Members of the Board. My name is Martin Gomez. I'm the director of the Friends of San Francisco Public Library.

I'm here to speak on behalf and support of the Richmond Branch expansion and renovation project.

This project is the second project we've submitted for this cycle. The first one, the Excelsior, unfortunately, did not make it.

The Richmond Branch is a very important branch library in the community. We did get a "very good" ranking on this from staff.

I should point out that in the "outstanding" ranks, all the libraries that are listed there are new construction. This would be renovation and expansion of a 1914 built Carnegie branch library, which has received a seismic rating of 4, which is the worst.

This library has been developed and has had strong community support throughout this entire process. As you know, the voters in San Francisco approved Proposition 14 by 78 percent. We also, at the Friends of the Library, supplied 35,000 dollars in a gift, to the Prop. 14 campaign to get it approved by the voters, and we're proud of that.

And the Friends are committed now to raise another half million dollars to furnish and equip the branch library. This would be expanded from 9,000 square feet to 13,000 square feet, a very tasteful renovation and expansion of the Carnegie Building.

I'd like to introduce Glen Ramisky.

MR. RAMISKY: I'm Glen Ramisky. I'm a member of the board of the Friends and Foundation, and a resident of San Francisco. I'm a longshoreman. I'm here to speak in support of the Richmond Branch Project.

Here, you have a Carnegie library with room for expansion in a neighborhood that was populated and established by western European immigrants. Now, those immigrants are still there, and they have been joined in modern times by immigrants from Asia -- 27 percent of the population there is Chinese -- by immigrants from Russian, 10 percent of the circulation in the Richmond branch is Russian circulation.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Here's an opportunity for the Board to supply funding to provide service in a densely populated urban area. One just needs to go to the library and just stand around for a very short time, to see those new immigrants bringing their children and their teens to that library facility that's sensitive to English as a second language, that's sensitive to adult education programs and to teen programs.

I want to share with you just a personal experience of mine. I hooked up with an Irish resident in the Richmond District who is in the trades. And being part of the trades, to go up through the chairs, you need to pass certain tests and go back to pick up trig and math and algebra and that kind of thing. Well, I started with this young man, tutoring and reading through the library program and meeting him at the Richmond library. And as he moved on through his apprenticeship program, in the sheet metal trades, he went on to math and physics and trig. It would be nice to have a library facility that was wired so that this young man could hook up through the Internet to undergraduate students who were more schooled in math and trig and geometry, than a working longshoremen, to get some tutoring.

So these are the kinds of benefits that can be supplied by your contribution for an improvement to this inner-city urban Richmond district library in San Francisco.
Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir, for a wonderful presentation.

I have also had a most eloquent telephone call on behalf of this project from His Honor, Mayor Willie Brown.

MR. COOK: Good afternoon. I'm Jim Cook. I'm the Redevelopment and Housing Director for the County of Monterey.

Assemblyman Simon Salinas called me last night and indicated that, unfortunately, he would not be here today. He asked me to come to express his appreciation. I know he has had a number of conversations with many of you. He really appreciates the time and the energy that you've given.

In a very brief fashion, the Castroville community has historically served as a port of entry. Today, the community is very proud of the fact that the majority of residents in that community are first- or second-generation Hispanics, who have come up here from Mexico to work in the community's agricultural industry.

Second, the community is very proud of its agricultural roots. Many of you

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

know Castroville because it's the artichoke center of the world.

In many ways, our grant application parallels kind of the fate of an artichoke.

[Laughter]

MR. COOK: I'll make the connection.

[Laughter]

MS. LLOYD: You've got our attention.

MR. COOK: Over the last growing seasons, the community has been working on a community plan. And the community plan attempts to provide jobs and housing for the residents of that community. But when you peel back the layers, the leaves of our community plan, what you find is that the artichoke -- or that the library project is really the heart, it's the soul of the entire community plan.

We have a vision in our community; and quite frankly, that vision brings California State University, Monterey Bay, more aggressively into our community, it forges a partnership with the North County Unified School District, the local board of education, and our own library district to create a facility in the center of our community which will create a synergistic effect to help lift the residents of that community up the economic ladder, up the educational ladder. So our request is extremely modest, but it's a request that is going to have a very significant impact. Because you can't just build houses, you can't just build jobs; you have to lift all segments of the community up together.

With that, I'd like to turn it over to David Green. David is the co-chair of our local fundraising effort.

David?

MR. GREEN: Thank you. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We're here today to speak for our community -- these folks here in the green aprons -- a small unincorporated community of 7,500 souls. 75 percent of whom are Hispanic, as Jim mentioned, primarily, agricultural workers. Only half of them have attended high school. Most of their children are the first generation who are completing high school and going on to university-level education.

Our request is modest in terms of funding; but it's enormous in terms of return to the community and to the State.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

While most communities have been able to raise their matching funds through bond issues and other taxing instruments, we don't have those venues available to us. We have raised 1.3 million dollars in matching grant funds through individual donations within the community. The Bond Act funding is our only hope of building this facility.

From the children using our nationally-recognized homework center, dropping their pennies, nickels and dimes into the collection jar at the library, to local companies, who on a larger scale, have supported recently the budget staff cuts for the staff at the library to keep the homework center open. One local grower, Luis Scattini and Sons, was told of the problem of the staff salaries being cut in half; and they wrote a check for 8,000 dollars in order to keep the homework center open.

Ladies and gentlemen, we're tapped out. We have given until it hurts to raise these matching funds. We implore you to grant our request for this facility.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MR. McGOWAN: Good afternoon. Thank you very much for hearing us.

My name is Mike McGowan, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 1. And we have with us today some notable people who have worked on this collaborative effort. We're going to be hearing from our good mayor, Christopher Cabaldon from the City of West Sacramento, and also from our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Patrick Campbell, who is another partner -- school districts being another partner with us on this project.

We're joined today also with our good friend who has come out of the dark, back to the light, that's former Assemblywoman Helen Thompson, who us back on the Board of Supervisors, where she belongs.

And also we have with us Council Member Oscar Villegas, who was really the pit bull and the driving force for this project, from the City of West Sacramento.

With that, I'm going to give up any further comments and turn them over to other speakers. But I will say this: I'm impressed by so many people here today that are supportive of and enthusiastic about their libraries, such as the folks that have pins and badges, T-shirts, and aprons. I think that's commendable.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

But I would just note for the record, without a demonstration, that we're so committed to this that we all went out last Friday and got tattoos.

[Laughter]

MR. CABALDON: Dr. Starr, Members of the Board, I'm Christopher Cabaldon. I'm the mayor of the City of West Sacramento. West Sacramento is the tenth-fastest growing city in the state of California. But we are still operating with essentially a bookmobile that somebody forgot to drive away.

This is a site that has been chosen because of its smart growth value to the community and to make sure that we stay as one community. We are one of those places with a large working class, diverse population, but with a huge amount of growth. And we're projected now to grow -- I learned last night -- by another 150,000 people in our small town of 30,000. And the only way we keep our community together, one place -- immigrant and new resident, rich and poor, white and people of color -- is to have this single library. We don't have any branches. This is the only place that makes our community a single place. It is on a former brownfield. It will be on the only light rail transit line. It's on the only bus line that's available in our community. We've really focused on the double-bottomline here, in terms of community investment.

So when we saw the "appropriateness of site" score come out as less than "outstanding," there is no another site available in our community that would maximize these values. Across the street will be a new community college campus. Half a block away is the new teen center. Co-located with this facility is the senior center and family learning center. We just passed a sales tax shortly after filing this application because we knew, once you funded it, we would have to find money to operate it. Our local community was so excited and engaged with this project as a symbol of what we are about as a community, that they passed a sales tax in some of the toughest economic times.

We could have made other choices. We could have found sites that encouraged sprawl and development on the suburban fringe; but we are committed to the urban core and to redevelopment and to maximization of the uses that are going to keep our community whole.

You haven't had an opportunity yet to fund any libraries in the metro urban Sacramento region, either Sacramento County or Yolo County. We've been out of Cycle 1. We don't have a single proposal that's in the "outstanding" category for Cycle 2. I urge you to reach into the "very good" category and make a statement about urban Sacramento, about smart growth, about maximization of these uses and

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

about keeping communities whole and support the West Sacramento Library Project.
Mr. Campbell?

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Patrick Campbell, and I am the interim superintendent of the Washington Unified School District.

And as Christopher just indicated, the school district and the city are one contiguous location.

When I read the evaluation, I was terribly disappointed as an educator, because we failed to put in our application the support that I feel is available to this project. As a new superintendent in the district, I can guarantee you that our support for this project is essential and will continue as the project moves forward.

In addition, the board of education is committed to this project. So it's kind of one of those things, when you read the evaluation, your heart sinks when you realize that perhaps you didn't emphasize enough what you should have, in terms of cooperation between the school district and the city.

It's been indicated before, there's a lot of problems in different areas. One of the things that came to my attention this last week is that several of our schools have parents who have not passed high school at the rate of 80 percent. And so in several areas the adult literacy is well below where it should be.

We look at the library as a place to bring together the community and to provide a West Sacramento literacy campaign. We also certainly would encourage our students and know our students would benefit from this program.

Access is the key. And as Christopher indicated, it is in the heart of the city. Access to students is available. Some of our lower-achieving schools live closest to this library. We support the program because of its access and because we feel it will meet the needs of our community.

We would appreciate your support on this project.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Superintendent.

Just for the record, Calabasas made the same mistake last time; and it is now this time in the "outstanding" category.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MS. THOMPSON: Thank you very much. I'm Helen Thompson. I'm here representing Yolo County, on the library effort in West Sacramento.

This is the first time that we have seen such a collaboration between the city, the county, and the school district; and we're very proud of that effort.

I would simply ask that you consider us and consider what you have heard and the testimony of my two colleagues.

And thank you for your effort here today.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Supervisor.

MS. SAULS: Good afternoon. My name is Julie Sauls; and I'm here on behalf of the Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy who represents the 32nd Assembly District.

This involves the Frazier Park project, which was able to receive the "outstanding" evaluation, which is proof of their efforts and all the time that they have put into getting to this level of an evaluation. They have chosen an excellent area for this new library that involves the community center, and is convenient to the surrounding area. It's a rural community that has limited resources, so you can understand how very important this would be to them.

And I will now turn it over to a representative, Darren Lim, from Senator Ashburn's office.

Thank you.

MR. LIM: Good afternoon. My name is Darren Lim, representing Senator Roy Ashburn.

I'm here today to speak briefly on two matters up for consideration with this board. The first project concerns the Frazier Park project in rural Kern County. Simply put, the current services at this library are grossly inadequate. We became aware of this situation and became emphasized of this matter when a little girl showed up at our mobile office out in Frazier Park. She was practically in tears. She was in tears because she couldn't complete her school project because the library didn't have the adequate services.

School children like this little girl should be able to go to the library. They should be able to get the books off the shelves. Technology should be just a click

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

away. And most importantly, they should have information readily acceptable.

Senator Ashburn asks for your favorable consideration on this matter that has been placed in the "outstanding" category.

And secondly, we'd like to bring your attention to the project in Tulare. This branch library in Tulare is currently in the "very good" status. Simply put, the project would increase the number of computers significantly. There are less computers in that branch than there are in the well of this auditorium. The additional funding would increase that amount significantly, and would greatly improve the accessibility to technology for a community that has a high number of unemployed and a large number of students that need additional educational students.

Speaking additionally on the first project in Frazier Park is Shelly Mason, the principal of El Tejon School.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Madam Principal, okay, Ockham's Razor: *"Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem."*

In other words, keep it as brief as possible. I think an eloquent point has been made.

MS. MASON: Yes, sir, I promised I will. And I speak as the principal of El Tejon School, representing Frazier Park, as well a long-standing member of the community who has watched my own children start their library careers with Woody at the bookmobile, to kind of a storefront operation, which has been the extent of our services over the 25 years that we've lived there.

We envision our library as an extension of the school community that will also house a family resource center, and really provide much-needed resources that are available 50 miles away from Frazier Park, for our school children, for grandparents raising grandchildren of whom there are many in our community, as well as for people who need a place to gather the kinds of resources that academic excellence in our students and literacy in our adult population demand.

We are a unique community in that we maximize our resources and we are really looking forward to the possibility of a library in Frazier Park to make maximum use of even more resources.

Thank you.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am.
Is that all for Frazier Park?

Sir?

MR. ROBIE: Yes, my name is Ed Robie. I am the supervisor from the south part of Lake County. And I'm here to speak on behalf of the Middletown Library Project.

I just want to say, it's awesome how many worthy projects you have to consider; and I don't know how in the world anyone can say that any of these projects don't deserve to be funded.

Basically, I just want to say that our application didn't end up in the excellent category, and I want to take responsibility for that. We didn't hire a professional grant writer. I got our librarian to write part of it. I got the high school staff to write part of it. I downloaded the joint use agreement off of the Internet, off your site from a project that had been funded, so that I could use that as a model. And there is a lot of things that I think we could have done better. But I'm here to tell you that there's some things, if they had been in there, that we may have been ranked higher.

I'm going to turn this over to Superintendent of Schools, Robert Gomez, to fill in some of the details.

CHAIR STARR: Superintendent, before you go, I would like also to point out, sir, that over the last two times, we've had many projects come way up; and I'm sure that is going to happen with you next time as well.

MR. GOMEZ: Mr. Chairman and Board Members, we are truly a rural applicant here. We do not have cities. We do not have any city money. We have a county with about five distinct areas. Our area in Lake and Mendocino County is the only true growth area within all those rural areas.

Obviously, growth certainly causes some friction and some problems in a small rural area. We have a lot of commuters that are living in our area now, commuting to Santa Rosa, and demand a lot more services than what we've had in the past.

Our library right now is nothing but a part-time in a 700-square foot building, which certainly is inadequate for any of the population.

We've gone from a high school of 180 students, to 550, to 850, within five

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

years. Those demands also are required for our adult population. We now have almost 7,000 folks living in our particular area, where just a short time ago, it was around a 2,000 population.

The ESL population, because of the agriculture in our area, had risen threefold, which requires not only ESL services, but greater adult ed. services and more reading materials. If we don't have our libraries available to the community in extending hours, then quite frankly, we're doing a tremendous disservice to that distinct population.

We have a combined program with both the county and the school district to serve our community. It's a joint venture. And as we look at our growth of our schools, the present high school library is being served by the middle school library with about 400 middle school kids -- at about 550, we will no longer have even a high school library because we'll have to move to another site.

It's very important for us to do these kinds of joint ventures if we're going to have any kind of library services in our rural areas. We would certainly like to have you consider our project.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Superintendent.

Senator?

MEMBER ALPERT: I just wanted to add just a comment to the point of the supervisor. We really are very committed to the fact that we want to be sure that we provide opportunities for rural areas. It is much harder to do an application than it is, I think, for some of the other areas.

Never forget that you have the services of the Library staff who is there to try and assist you. And so when you do prepare this application the next go-around, please come back for technical assistance, because we do want to give you every opportunity to get a grant.

MR. GOMEZ: We will

MEMBER ALPERT: Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Also, Supervisor, this is live television. So I'd stick around. Who knows what's going to happen? So don't go yet.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

[Laughter]

CHAIR STARR: Sir, please.

MR. KEHOE: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, ladies and gentlemen. My name is David Kehoe. I'm with the Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

And mindful, Dr. Starr, of your words, I will keep this presentation brief.

As you formulated the rules of this selection process, it became apparent that you desired not only to improve library buildings, per se, but also to stimulate the creation of partnerships that resulted in leveraging funding, creating maximum public benefit. To this end, we have fashioned dynamic relationships with other north state libraries. We are diligently working with our schools to establish joint use programs that will bring literary freshness and excitement to the small communities within our county.

Ladies and gentlemen, funding this application is an opportunity for you to realize your vision in Northern California.

With me this afternoon, also speaking in support of our joint City of Redding Shasta County application is Carolyn Chambers, our librarian; Mr. Mark Cibula, mayor of the City of Redding; Mrs. Deborah Smitty, president and publisher of the Redding Record Searchlight.

Ms. Chambers?

MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you.

Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. Carol Chambers, the Shasta County Library director.

Our need in Shasta County is critical. This is why our citizens were inspired to implement this project for Shasta County. Over the past few years, we have added more books, computers, audiovisual formats, and a host of new programs for our library, all in the less than 13,000 square feet that are actually accessible to the public in our building.

At the same time, we have lost the use of our community meeting room because of lack of ADA accessibility, a situation that's not easily remedied because of our site configuration and our building configuration.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Our new library would represent greatly increased and improved services for Shasta County, over what we can provide in our current cramped facility. As the hub for Northern California, the Shasta County library houses the main collection for the citizens of Shasta County. We're a federal depository library for the Second Congressional District. And our collection is drawn up on an as a major resource by all of the north state libraries.

This was confirmed by the Council of Librarians -- of the North State Cooperative Library System in a letter recently to Dr. Starr. And they stated that the new Redding Main Library would serve as a major resource for the region.

According to the State Department of Finance, the population of this Northern California region is over 732,000; and it covers a very large geographical area. A new Redding main library would benefit not only the citizens of Shasta County, but also the citizens of 11 rural Northern California counties.

Thank you.

MR. CIBULA: Thank you. Mayor Mark Cibula of the City of Redding.

I first want to start by just thanking all of you for your service, both staff and the Members of the Board. Your decisions are going to affect California for many generations. And thank you for your time.

In the time in which the competition for resources are enormous, our community has completely unified behind this project. As you know, this is also a city-county joint partnership; and the city has stepped forward and provided land, as well as resources for both the construction and the operations.

The location is "outstanding." It is next to a number of schools. It is also near a park; and it is near a neighborhood which is undergoing major renovation and redevelopment.

In the larger picture, of course, Redding is rapidly urbanizing; but still, as Ms. Chambers pointed out, serves an enormously large area, including much of which is completely rural.

Thank you very much.

MS. SMITTY: Hello. I am Deborah Smitty, president and publisher of The Record Searchlight. We are the largest daily newspaper north of Sacramento, and a

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

member of the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers.

From a newspaper standpoint, of course, I'm very interested in reading and literacy in libraries. But from a community standpoint, I see such a great need and such a commitment from the citizens of Redding. They have worked really hard; and they have raised 8.2 million dollars for this library. They have had a very aggressive letter-writing campaign, which I'm sure you know about from the stacks of letters I'm sure that you have received.

CHAIR STARR: I think it's -- Mr. Hall, about, what, 542 letters?

MR. HALL: Yes, I was actually wondering if there was anybody in Shasta County that hadn't written us.

[Laughter]

MS. SMITTY: We are committed.

MEMBER PACHINO: In fact, I'd like to point out that I measured the height of the letters, because they're incredible. And it is actually very moving to see the amount of support that came from such a large percentage of the people in the county and in the city. And it was very impressive. And I wanted to make sure it was well understood.

MS. SMITTY: Thank you.

From a personal standpoint, just briefly, it means enough to me, and I'm committed enough on a personal level, that I have actually redone my will and left a gift to the Shasta County Library Foundation. And I really hope you'll consider this grant. I don't want to have to die to get this library built.

[Laughter]

MS. SMITTY: So please remember and vote "yes" for the Redding Main and Shasta County Library.

Thank you.

MR. CHAFFEE: Good afternoon, Board. My name is James Chaffee. And I've been interested in the San Francisco County Library for a number of years. And I'm here to speak on behalf of the libraries and not on behalf of this rather regrettable application for money.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

In response, I can only say, "*Quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus.*"

To Dr. Starr, I can say, "Well, San Francisco hasn't changed." For the rest of you, this would take an explanation much longer than we have. Let me take time to make two brief points.

First of all, San Francisco has figured out that money is fungible; and that, therefore, whenever they decide to be irresponsible and unresponsive with their money, they can always turn around and approach someone else for it, and that is what I believe is happening here.

I have no doubt that Mayor Willie Brown has contacted this board. It's because of his irresponsibility that this San Francisco Library is rather desperate to fill back up the contingency fund of its already 106-million-dollar bond that's completely depleted, so that now we are taking 5 percent out of every project. And the effect of this 5 million dollars is to replace that contingency fund; and regrettably, endorse the irresponsibility that got us here, including two million dollars to Tellus Corporation for a condominium, an extra 2 million dollars to a senior aide to Willie Brown, who is creating a development in Glen Park. I can go on and on in that vein.

The point is, that this is not a project that the local community has supported. There have been complaints from the staff about book-dumping to make their statistics look good. There was open revolt about the design. There was complaints about the trail of the design charette that was to -- well, as you can see, I could go on and on.

The point is that we need to have local control; and to not reward what has gone on up until now with more money from the State.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

And you've brought a little bit of San Francisco here to Sacramento.

[Laughter]

MS. HILDRETH: Thank you, Dr. Starr.

As Dr. Starr remembers his days as a city librarian, this is the drama of San Francisco that we're reliving right here in front of the Board.

[Laughter]

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

MS. HILDRETH: Susan Hildreth, City Librarian, who is very proud to bring this project to you today, the Richmond Branch renovation. It was rated as a "very good" project. We're very proud of that. And the key point I'd like to make to you is that the "outstanding" projects should all be celebrated. But, folks, they're all new buildings. New buildings are great; but I would love to see a Carnegie -- a 1914 Carnegie renovated.

This is an architectural preservation project. The neighborhood is 100 percent behind it. You have letters from many different neighborhood groups regarding this project. And as you can see, we're asking you to preserve our Carnegie with the Carnegie tartan on here that we got out of our reference books at the Richmond branch. So this is a very important project. We hope you'll fund it and acknowledge that preservation of libraries in urban areas is very, very important.

We've talked to you about the makeup of the neighborhood. And I have a young gentleman here from the neighborhood to read a quick letter. And we appreciate your indulgence.

MR. KWON: Hi, my name is Kevin Kwon [phonetic].

I'm actually representing Assembly Member Leland Yee -- I just came from across the street -- representing the 12th Assembly District. He's actually back in the district for some other prior engagements right now, so I'm here to represent him.

We're here to support the renovation of the Richmond Branch Library. And, you know, the population of the Richmond District is 40 percent Asian American and over 27 percent Chinese; and there is a huge community support for this.

And, you know, I grew up in the Richmond District; and it's critical that we receive these funds in order to serve the growing Asian population. And on behalf of Assembly Member Yee, I thank you for your support.

MR. BOZAJIAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm James Bozajian. I'm mayor of the City of Calabasas. I'm going to speak and there's another speaker. But I would like to acknowledge that we do have a delegation up here consisting of our assistant city manager, Robin Parker; the president of the Calabasas Library Commission, Ellen Pangarliotas; our project coordinator, Matthew Hayden; our library consultant, Gordon Conable. And Donald Zimring, the assistant superintendent of the school district which we're in, the Los Virgenes Unified School District, had testified here last year. He was unable to attend today because of the fire situation and public safety concerns.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

CHAIR STARR: Your Honor, could I ask just as a query, if we have Calabasas "outstanding," if there was a major presentation last time, in which -- and Calabasas only lacked a piece of paper last time through -- as you remember, a piece of paper. I would urge you, sir, to be as brief as possible because we don't want to carry coals to Calabasas.

[Laughter]

MR. BOZAJIAN: Well, having presided over many meetings myself, I don't want to talk you out of giving us the grant. So I'll be very brief.

[Laughter]

MR. BOZAJIAN: I'm here on behalf of the Calabasas community, where there's widespread support and enthusiasm among the citizens. We've submitted documents. The number has grown to nearly 1,000 signatures on the petitions and letters. We're looking forward to having a new Calabasas library which will be the centerpiece of our Calabasas Civic Center.

And now I'd like to introduce Fred Gaines, the Vice-President of the Calabasas Library Commission. And he will become the president of the California Library Commission, scheduled in January 2004, to take effect.

Fred?

MR. GAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members. We brought you the piece of paper.

[Laughter]

MR. GAINES: We've done what we've been asked to do. We'd ask for your support.

I'm going to -- as hard as this is to do for a lawyer, I'm going to throw out all the notes on my yellow pad, and just read you two sentences from a letter.

You received a lot of letters from our community as well. This one about a fourth grader, Chaperelle Elementary School, Hanna MacKenzie; and she says:

"Your library is my favorite place to read. If I could, I would go with you to Sacramento to make them give you all the money you need."

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

[Laughter]

MR. GAINES: Lest you think she's not polite, she goes on to say,

"Thank you four" -- F-O-U-R -- "all of your time you put into the library and for making it a fun place to be."

Hence, the need for the homework center.

[Laughter]

MR. GAINES: And we do thank you very much. We thank the staff and the Board. And we have an "outstanding" first priority application. We were the only "outstanding" application not to be funded the last time. And we ask for your support for our application.

Thank you so much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Gaines.

Anyone else from Calabasas?

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Susan Kent, the distinguished city librarian of Los Angeles.

MS. KENT: Thank you for the introduction.

I'm here on behalf of the Los Angeles Public Library which serves not only the largest population in the United States and in California, and our partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to create a new library in Harbor Gateway-Harbor City. We have worked very carefully together. We have selected --

MEMBER MATEO: Could you speak closer to the microphone, please?

MS. KENT: We have selected a site, which is a half block from Narbonne High School, a school which has a very large minority population and also a special program for high school students with disabilities.

We have active community involvement in every step of this project, including the selection of the site and all of the design configurations. They worked with the

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

architect. We had participation from our neighborhood council, from our Chamber of Commerce, from the students and the faculty at Narbonne High School. And we're very, very pleased to get an "outstanding" rating. So to leave it at that, we urge you to support our new library in Harbor Gateway-Harbor City.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mrs. Kent.

Thank you for braving the airlines condition coming up here today.

Linda Wood for Alameda County.

MS. WOOD: Dr. Starr and Members of the Board, I'm Linda Wood, the County Librarian from Alameda County. And I'd like to draw your attention to the Castro Valley library project, which has received an overall rating of "very good" in this cycle. We are a second-cycle applicant, after having applied in the first cycle as well.

I want to thank you and the staff for revising the criteria for age and condition of the existing building, so that communities that have libraries that are old and decrepit and totally inadequate for today can qualify for an "outstanding" rating in that category. That was not allowed in the first cycle, as you might recall.

I also want to thank the Office of Library Construction staff for their advice regarding our application, which enabled us to improve our ratings in two categories:

Both age and condition of the existing building, and appropriateness of site. These improved ratings in both categories went from "very good" to "outstanding."

However, I do want to express my concern to you about the rating method that was addressed at the meeting of some of your questions and by Mr. Hall. It resulted in our evaluation for the technology category falling from an "outstanding" rating in the first cycle, to only an "acceptable" rating, two points on the four-point schedule. A drop of two points on the four-point scale.

When we made no significant changes to the technology portions of our application, because they had been rated "outstanding" in Cycle 1, there were no Office of Library Construction staff criticisms or suggestions for improvement in either the written evaluation or our telephone conference call. How were we supposed to know that any improvement in an area in which we've been rated "outstanding" would be required?

I am reluctant to bring this to your attention because I have the highest regard for the staff at the Office of Library Construction, whom I consider my professional

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

colleagues, and long-term professional working relationship with bond term manager Richard Hall, for whom I have the highest regard.

I don't want to criticize them; but I do want to question the method that results in the same technology plan, being rated so significantly differently in the two cycles. This is highly important to our Castro Valley Project because it makes the difference in whether we are rated "outstanding" overall or "very good" overall.

I believe, based on your discussion earlier, that other applicants may have experienced similar downgradings of their ratings, from one cycle to another.

I'd like to ask the Board to review the ratings for the technology criteria from the Castro Valley Library Cycle 1 and 2 evaluations. I do have copies here, if they can be distributed.

CHAIR STARR: No, no.

MS. WOOD: No, they cannot?

CHAIR STARR: No, they cannot.

MS. WOOD: All right.

CHAIR STARR: And that will not be done now.

MS. WOOD: I do want to continue my comments, if I may?

CHAIR STARR: You can, yes.

MS. WOOD: These comments almost contradict each other. One can hardly believe they're evaluating the same product.

I have a deep concern about a comment made by one of the raters that our plan may include too many computers because there's a high percentage of the survey respondents in our community who have a computer at home. Another -- one rater stated that directly; another referred to it.

I believe that comment reflects a lack of knowledge about how computers are being used in libraries today, which I'm really surprised by.

The Bond Act manager responded to my question last Friday about how this could happen, by saying that, quote, "It was not surprising or uncommon that ratings

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

would change from one cycle to another, since all the applications are rated in relation to each other."

We were aware that our overall evaluation might change; but not that factors such as technology, which can be evaluated based on professional best practices, would be likely to change after such a good rating.

What this revealed to us, is that the applications are not being evaluated based on their own merits or in relation to the Bond Act and its regulations, or in relation to any standard of excellence in professional best practices. Rather, they are being rated as if they were being graded on a curve, such as a professor or a teacher might do who is trying to spread the grades.

Our experience with the technology rating reveals that there's no standard objective criteria that apply to all three cycles of applications equally. And I believe that Mr. Hall's comments confirmed that.

Instead, the criteria change every time the composition of the group changes. Trying to meet the standard of excellence that's required is like trying to catch water in a net. We, the applicants, can't trust the stability or the objectivity of the assessment from one cycle to another.

I appreciate the questions raised by Members of the Board about this issue earlier; and I appeal to your Board to consider this matter and the fact that some library projects have been adversely affected by this method of evaluation.

And I would request your respectful consideration, considering some review of that matter.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much, Ms. Wood.

We'd like to hear from everyone who turned out, who achieved a higher rating under this same system, the same criteria.

MS. WOOD: Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MS. WOOD: I believe if you do look at those applications for Castro Valley, you'll see that it is an excellent project, in all respects.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, thank you. I'm sure it is an excellent project.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Thank you.

MS. HOLMES: Good afternoon. My name is Fontayne Holmes. I'm the assistant city librarian at Los Angeles Public Library. And I'm here on behalf of the Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library application.

71 percent of the voters in Los Angeles approved Proposition 14. This is the only Proposition 14 application from the City of Los Angeles. So we took great consideration as we evaluated all of the communities in Los Angeles and looked at inadequate library services in many places, and selected Harbor Gateway-Harbor City.

It is a new unique community. It occupies land that is one mile by six and a half miles long; and there are actually two communities that share this area. And the area connects the harbor, San Pedro, with the rest of the City of Los Angeles.

Harbor Gateway-Harbor City is 23 miles from Los Angeles City Hall. There are no other public buildings, other than the schools, in the Harbor Gateway-Harbor City area.

As Susan Kent said, this has been a fantastic process, it's been very intensive and a lot of work; but it's been a fantastic community process, working with the community, the schools; and incredibly, the two largest bureaucracies I think in the state: The City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District. And there were no barriers. Everyone participated.

This is a multi-ethnic community. Many, many people coming into the country for the first time, with a population of 67,000. We are very thrilled and humbled today that we received an "outstanding" rating. And we sincerely hope you will consider making a grant to the Harbor Gateway-Harbor City. Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much.

Apropos of your testimony, ma'am -- if you are from the same library, please cluster. Don't worry about where your place is in line. It's more effective if you cluster together and make a presentation.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman and panel members, my name is Donna Jones, and I'm from the Friends of the Castro Valley Library.

Castro Valley is a small suburban town with no industry, particularly; and a

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

large plot is difficult, almost impossible to find the size for the size of a library. In fact, our site was landlocked; and it was purchased with the hope that the BART extension would give us street access.

There's not a lot of public transportation in the suburbs; but our site links Castro Valley and Hayward by surface streets. It's just off the 580 corridor. And BART is a short walk, so that any one in the BART service area can service -- use the services in our library.

I live in unincorporated San Leandro. Castro Library is a couple of miles away. And my local -- the closest library is several blocks away. But to use that library, I would have to pay 50 dollars a year. Our new library would be free to anyone in California. In fact, people drive long distances to get a card to access the Alameda County Web site, which is ACLibrary.org.

Our library is tiny for our population and circulation. We circulate 25,000 items a month, and have only 33 parking spaces. We share our parking with a church across the street. But the street is wide and fast, and a child was hit coming to one of our programs at the library. We have one small room for the public and for employee working -- work projects. It was small when it opened in 1961. We have student tutoring four afternoons a week. We have lots of evening programs. We have bridge groups and Civil War groups and tax preparation; we have lawyer night. We have storybook night for working parents.

We worry that we will bring too many people to our events; and that we'll be in violation of the fire marshal's rules.

When we have senior programs, we've actually had seniors sitting on the floor. Well, that's just not right. We would love to have higher participation; but we need more space.

The Friends serve the community with our book sales and with our books. We donate to the hospice, to schools, to English as a second language, to jails, two shelters, the Philippines. We give books to other Friends. But our fundraising is also limited by our space. We have a small card in the library; and it brings in 6,000 dollars a year. Can you imagine how much money we could bring in if we had a small Friends bookstore in our library?

We also have -- we sell books in some of the local coffee shops; and we tried the juryrooms in the Alameda County Superior Court.

We've had an active library advisory for almost 15 years. And in two days, we

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

got over 2,000 signatures in support of our library. We submitted almost a thousand letters. We have mounted two assessment tax campaigns to support operating costs. We lobbied for this bond; and we campaigned for it. We want to play. We just need a library to play in.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for your very complete presentation.

MS. MOSKOVITZ: Good afternoon. I'm Carolyn Moskovitz. I'm the manager of the Castro Valley Library. This morning somebody said, "How are you doing?"

And I said, "Well, I used to have an "outstanding" sense of humor; but right now I have a "very good" sense of humor.

[Laughter]

MS. MOSKOVITZ: I'd love to have my "outstanding" sense of humor back; and I'd love to see you take a very careful look at Castro Valley. The amount of participation that the community has put into this library is astounding. Again, over 3,000 signatures on a petition, close to a thousand letters of support have gone to your board. And that's because this is such a grassroots important effort; and the community is so unified behind it.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you. And all "very good" categories are fully in play.

Yes?

MS. WASHINGTON: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. My name is Nettie Washington, and I'm from the City of Tulare. And I drew the short straw on the way up here. So of the four of us that came, Councilmember Ortega, City Manager Kevin Northtrack, and Library Director Michael Stowe, I got the short stick.

[Laughter]

MS. WASHINGTON: Let's see, I'm a business owner in my community. I am also a council member, and I'm the founding member of the New Library Foundation. I'm here today to ask you to please fund our 6-million-dollar grant application.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment***

Just three points I'd like to cover briefly with you.

In reviewing your rating report, the only project from the San Joaquin Valley that has a possibility of -- that came up in the "outstanding" category, was that of Mendota. Previously, in the last round, one award was made in our area, which brought the possible funding to Tulare County to only 7 million dollars out of your 260 million-dollar amount that you have. These are the only awards that have been made in the Central Valley; and that comes to 2.7 percent of your funding. And that's just not our fair share in Tulare County. And we are a city library. We're not a part of the county system. The City of Tulare has supported their library since 1936.

Secondly, I would just like to give you a few pointers about the City of Tulare. Our library is too small. It was originally built in 1936, like I said. The building has been remodeled two times: Once in 1962 and once in 1975. At the last remodeling, we had a population of 16,000. We now have a population of 46,000. There is not enough room for our children to have adequate children programs. We have an inability to expand our technology center. The library is not centrally located, currently. And we have inadequate parking and the library is landlocked.

A few points about the Central Valley. We are one of the fastest growing areas in the state of California. Our population has increased by 204,000, from 1980, and is projected to this 2004, until the year 2020. We're a very low-income area. Our city -- the citizens in our city, one-third to 33 percent of them receive some kind of government assistance.

We're a high minority community. 37 percent of our population do not have English as their primary language.

We're a high unemployment area. Usually our employment rate is between 12 and 18 percent, which is double that of the state and federal government. We're a low-income attainment level. The Great Valley Center has rated us, Kings and Tulare County, as 57 and 58, of the 58 counties of students -- high school students moving on to higher education. Excuse me, and also 20 percent of the users of our library comes from outside of our city, from the County of Tulare.

Tulare's specific library issues: Currently, like I said, our facility is too small. There are many things that we do not have in our library, and that would need to be corrected.

Tulare's application is both urban and rural, because we are a city in the middle of the country. We have a very diverse community. And like I said, 37 percent of our

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

citizens do not have English as their primary language.

The previous expansions have used all the available space, and no further expansion is possible. We've done everything that we can do, and we are severely undersized, and we have numerous deficiencies of which I mentioned.

Our prospective site: Okay, this new library will be the cornerstone of our downtown revitalization. The proposed site will provide easy access to all citizens of Tulare and the surrounding areas. The new site is adjacent to the new Tulare/Santa Fe trail, which is the largest park that we have in the City of Tulare, that runs linear through, across our community. It will be located across the street from our city transit, and in very close proximity to a new senior facility that is coming in our community.

Lastly, we have strong community support for our project. Okay, you have received letters from our legislators supporting this; you've received letters from citizens in our community supporting this. Our local businesses have joined and partnered with us in coming up with the funds that we needed. We established a foundation to help the city come up with and committed 1 million dollars of the match that we need. To this point, we've raised 200,000 dollars of that 1 million dollars.

The City of Tulare needs this library because as Assemblyman Ashburn said to us today: "City libraries are the magnet for those who try to achieve."

And we ask for your support for the funding of the Tulare Library Project.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MEMBER ALPERT: Can I make one comment? I appreciate and I know how heartfelt those comments are; but we have, to my count, gone through 12 proposals in more than an hour. We will be here -- we have to leave at five o'clock. We cannot possibly get everybody's testimony. Please be mindful that everybody else has come from a long distance as well. And so if you can try to keep to three minutes, we would certainly appreciate it.

MR. MADAFFER: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. I'm San Diego City Councilmember Jim Madaffer. I would like to introduce a special video message from San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy.

CHAIR STARR: Just a point. We decided to allow this because of the special circumstances faced by the mayor, in fighting the fire.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MR. MADAFFER: Thank you.

This was taped last night at our fire incident command center.

MS. LLOYD: Might I suggest, if there's going to be technical difficulties, perhaps we can take testimony from someone else while they work them out, to save every moment.

CHAIR STARR: Yes. Let's keep it moving, please.

Again, let's not carry coals to San Diego.

[Laughter]

MR. BRAGG: My name is Raymond Bragg, with the beleaguered City of Fontana.

CHAIR STARR: Wait. Are there more San Diego people to testify?

MR. BRAGG: Just me.

CHAIR STARR: Just one? Go ahead, sir.

MR. BRAGG: With City of Fontana in San Bernardino County, I bring you greetings from Ed Kieczkowski, the county librarian in the County of San Bernardino, who is not able to be here because of the fire.

We're talking today on behalf of Fontana's library proposal, where we will experience over a 410 percent growth increase between 1980 and the year 2020.

We are the ninth fastest growing city in the nation. Just since the year 2000, we've brought into the community more than 21,000 people. That's over 2,000 new school-age children per year. We desperately need a new library. The county branch library is only 13,000 square feet. And as you can see, just the growth in the last two years has exceeded what the existing library was originally designed for.

Our new library is an important psychological boost to our community. We've always had to take second fiddle to the communities to our west and to our east. Over 20,000 of our residents have to go to Rancho Cucamonga every year for library services and over 10,000 a year go to the City of Rialto. This is a joint collaboration of the County of San Bernardino and the City of Fontana and Fontana Unified School

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

District. Together, we are proposing to co-locate the Fontana Middle School in our new library and technology center. This is important because the middle school is over 90 percent Hispanic students. They have nine computers in the library. Only two of them are Spanish language computers. They don't even all work at the same time. In the new library, we'll have over 25 computers, just Spanish language only, out of 200 computers total.

The community is over 57 percent Hispanic, so this is very important for the rest of the community.

The city is very committed and the community is very committed to this project. The City Council has already authorized a five and a half million-dollar construction effort to prepare the area around where the new library will be. This construction effort is ongoing right now and will be completed in April.

Secondly, and probably most importantly, our construction plans are done. We're ready to build; and we ask you, just show us the money, and we will do it. We have the ability -- they're done, they're right here (indicating), and they're ready to go.

And I think this is important for the Board because it's interesting to note that out of the first round recipients, out of 18, only one has actually gotten to construction to date. This is important. We are ready to go. We're ready to get started right away.

On behalf of the mayor, Mark Nueve, who is not able to be here, he'd like to thank Senators Nell Soto and Jim Brulte for supporting this project. And on behalf of the children and the people of the City of Fontana, we'd like to thank you very much for your consideration.

I'd like to introduce Councilwoman Josie Gonzales for a few words.

CHAIR STARR: Both Senators Brulte and Soto have called and written.

MS. GONZALES: All right, good afternoon, Dr. Starr. Good afternoon, Board Members. The fact that I'm able to be here before you is so overwhelming. It is such a beautiful experience, I cannot tell you. And at the same time, it's very frightening because the future of the library that we want so badly rests right here with you and with my effort.

I will tell you that I grew up in the City of Fontana. I went to school. I used to walk to the library that we have right now. I own a small business in the city. Everyone knows me. They approached me with their concerns with the interest they

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

have. And on a new level, I am a brand-new grandmother; and I've joined a wonderful, wonderful place. It's like Disneyland for us adults, where I can empathize with concerns in a very different way than I could when I was younger.

It is in the name of all of the brand-new children, of all of the new residents, our city is overflowing with them, in which I ask you to find it in your equations. I won't say your heart because I know your hearts are so big already and you still can't fit all of us in there. But I ask you to look long and hard at the effort that we're trying to do, in order to provide a better-serving community base for the very children that come in the hands of their parents, looking for a new future as they relocate in our city.

We cannot ever measure up, as elected officials, they come to us; and no matter what we try to do, there's always a little bit more we can do for them. And so I stand here before you, bringing more of the mail -- library-o-grams that are brought to me on a daily basis. Because of the small business that I own, I'm extremely accessible. And some of these are written by children with who haven't even started school; but their mommies and daddies asked them to scribble in their own, small language, ask for an opportunity for the future.

We cannot, as we come before you -- Mr. Bragg and myself -- even begin to represent the amount of concern that we have. We've worked so hard, as has been stated, in order to provide a shelf-ready project. We have begun, like other cities, to put together the Pacific Electric trail immediately on the north end, to try to revitalize our downtown. The Downtown Revitalization Task Force, it's now in its third year, in preparation for this moment.

We have on the south end of this whole project a senior center that is in its second phase. The first is completed. A month ago yesterday, we received the word that our second phase had been funded. And immediately, we have begun on the third phase. All of these, under construction immediately.

It is imperative that I do my best today. I will not try to impress you with big numbers, with anything. Just know that I, as a little girl, visited my local library; and that as a third-generation immigrant to this country, I tell you that I stand before you only through the opportunities that my parents were able to work so hard to give me. I came from a Spanish-speaking home. I am fluent in Spanish. I've worked very hard to provide a good example of opportunity for those who are coming after me. And it is through your effort, your heartfelt investment, as you sit here before us today, in which I will be able to bring home that same opportunity for all of the young men and women who will one day lead our country and my city. I say that because every one of us look for leaders in which we can point to and say, "Oh, this famous person was born and lived in the City of Fontana," or whatever city we want to claim;

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

and we say with great pride: "They are the fruit that has been born by the efforts of people who invested their lifetime to make it happen."

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much, Councilwoman, for a very eloquent -- and you're as eloquent, I'm sure, in Spanish as you are in English.

Thank you for that beautiful presentation.

MR. MADAFFER: Dr. Starr, the video for Mayor Murphy, I understand, is ready.

Well, as we can see, it's working great.

[Laughter]

(A videotape of Mr. Murphy was played.)

MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon, I'm San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy. I had hoped to attend the Library Board meeting today to testify in favor of the city's most important library project. However, because of the wildfires in San Diego, I remain behind.

I did want to make just three very brief points. First of all, we sincerely appreciate the fact that the San Diego Main Library project was given an "outstanding" rating.

Secondly, I want to say that this library project is the most important project in the history of San Diego.

And the third point I want to make is that not only will this be of extraordinary value to the people of San Diego, it will be of extraordinary value to all the people that reside in San Diego County -- all three million of them.

So I would urge you to approve this project today. And if you do, future generations of San Diegans will be forever grateful.

Thank you.

(The videotape concluded.)

MR. MADAFFER: Dr. Starr, I will just continue with some very brief comments, and we will be finished.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

San Diego has embarked on a very ambitious program to build or expand 24 libraries throughout the city by the year 2013. Key to this program is building that new main library. We've put together in our city a 312 million-dollar program to replace our 50-year-old main library, and to build and rehabilitate 23 branch facilities. In July of 2002, our city council voted unanimously to endorse our city library's initiative.

Joining me here today in support of our library application is our library director, Anna Tatar; Jim Dah, former chair of the California Board; as well as our Municipal Employees Association, who are also here in support.

Obviously, the key and the heart of our strong library system will be our new main library, to be built in the center of downtown San Diego's east village redevelopment area. A 20 million-dollar grant from California's Proposition 14 funds will assure that this new main library will become an icon for San Diego. Not only a major resource center for the hundreds of thousands who will use it regularly, but a civic center of public meeting rooms, art gallery, auditorium, a gathering facility for those, young and old.

Because of San Diego's leadership role in both the Tierra del Sol and Serra Library Systems of Southern California, this new main library will be the primary research and education center for Imperial, Inyo, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as well as San Diego County.

As a further example of the many merits of San Diego's main library, I will list only a few.

First, its unparalleled access to public transit and freeways, a trolley line on the very same street as the library, and over 500 free parking spaces and thousands more where our current main library has none.

Our new main library will serve as the library for over 32 preschools, public, private and alternative schools in the immediate neighborhood of the main library. In fact, our Superintendent of Schools, Alan Burson, asked me to convey that he, too, would have been here today, had it not been for the fires in San Diego.

In closing, I want to express our appreciation to the Office of Library Construction in evaluating our application with the "outstanding" ranking, and we ask the Library Board for a favorable vote in funding the new main library for San Diego.

Thank you so much.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

Any more from San Diego?

Yes, sir?

MR. LIN: Yes, good afternoon, Dr. Kevin Starr and good afternoon all the Board Members and the staff. I am Dr. Matthew Lin. I'm the mayor of the City of San Marino.

I'd like to take an opportunity to congratulate all Board Members and the staff for the effort and time that you put in, in this application form process, as you have done a very wonderful job; and I would congratulate you.

The San Marino contingents including 15 of our members -- would you mind standing up -- include all of our city council, school board member, and our librarian and parents and a student. And we'd like here to offer some brief comment regarding our "outstanding" application.

San Marino Public Library has probably been there for 90 years, to serve the area, with our borders. The current structure, that has been there for 52 years, is beyond repair. We are not only not-ADA compliant, but asbestos has been floating around. Their safety is our really concern. If they are inspected, they probably will get shut down. So we really need to rebuild it. And I'd like to ask your consideration.

With this, I will give my mike to our former mayor, Suzanne Crowell, if you allow me.

I don't know if you'd allow me to pass out some pictures because I saw some Board Members may not see these pictures, too.

CHAIR STARR: No, sir, those were put into the evaluation.

MR. LIN: Okay.

CHAIR STARR: Those have already been evaluated; and they're a part of your total evaluation process. So it would be unfair to the other applicants to allow you to do that twice.

MR. LIM: Sure. Thank you so much.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

CHAIR STARR: But please accept that in the right spirit. Thank you.

MS. CROWELL: Good afternoon. My name is Suzanne Crowell; and I'm a long-time resident of San Marino and a former mayor.

I would like you to remember six important reasons why San Marino needs this grant.

One is outreach. Our community outreach has no borders. Our library has become a regional library, stretching far into the San Gabriel Valley. 40 percent of our library cardholders and 80 percent of our Internet users live outside the city limits of San Marino. We also have the unique and significant programs for battered women and disadvantaged students.

Two, the lifelong learning center will immediately address family literacy, English language development and after-school homework assistance. This is extremely important because over 30 percent of our population are foreign-born. And when you consider the outsiders who use our library, that percentage goes up greatly.

Number three is diversity. 50 percent of our residents are Asian. 65 percent of our students are of Asian descent. Because our library serves a region and not just the city, our library must meet the demands of a multi-ethnic and economically-diverse population. We cannot do this without a new library.

Four, school funding cuts. Another issue is the burden on the library because of budget cuts. The entire school district, which is four schools, has only one librarian, and she is an administrator. The public library is now the school's library.

Optimum location: The library is located in the best possible and most appropriate site in the city: Central, accessible, near homes, businesses, adjacent to two schools, the teen center, public transportation and a park.

It is the cornerstone of the larger planned -- a planned larger community campus, and the key to smart growth in our city.

Six, senior services. Currently, the library facilities are unable to provide needed services to the region's substantial senior population. Our seniors need access to public and private programs for health and well-being. We cannot meet these needs in our current facility.

Why does San Marino need this funding? Because without it, the programs

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

that I've just described are impossible.

Why does San Marino need this funding? Because it is not just about San Marino.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Former Mayor.

Is this San Marino, as well?

MR. DOWNER: Yes.

CHAIR STARR: Well, let's move it along, please. Thank you.

MR. DOWNER: I'd be happy to.

CHAIR STARR: Not that I want to in any way take away from your argument, but try and say things that have not been emphasized previously.

MR. DOWNER: Sure. My name is Bob Downer; and I'm proud to represent our library as a trustee.

CHAIR STARR: Could you speak into the microphone, sir?

MR. DOWNER: My name is Bob Downer; and I'm proud to represent our library as a trustee.

Our 52-year-old facility missed the age requirement of "outstanding," by one year. It is, however, totally obsolete and must be replaced.

In just the last year, since the application was put in a year ago, we've experienced not one, but two floods, requiring us to move staff from the locations that they were in, up into patron areas, eliminating patroncies. The facility is not ADA-compatible, and we candidly are concerned about forced closure. We have an inability to have patrons get to certain areas of the libraries and we have even a disabled staff person who has difficulty in that regard.

It's also unsafe, and I'll just comment the fact that the fire escapes are inadequate; and in a couple of cases, there are chainlink ladders going up through windows. Not what you'd like to see in your facility.

San Marino, as has already been stated, is a diverse residential community.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

The dynamic changes in our community over the last two decades have placed extraordinary new demands on the library and, frankly, on the town, as we try to service multi-ethnic and multilingual populations.

We have a very small business district. 3 percent of our revenues come from business taxes. We are a property-tax-based community. And this is an important point I want to make: San Marino, in the living history of this community, has never come to the State of California requesting a grant, other than the library grants this year and the last.

We have 40 years of leadership in our delegation today. And to their knowledge -- in their knowledge, we have never been here requesting monies of the State before. We have self-funded our projects in the last decade through bonds and repayment, a new fire department, a completely remodeled police department and a 50-million-dollar project to completely rebuild the schools.

The result is a residence base in a city that is overtaxed -- heavily taxed and financially strained. We need this grant. San Marino residents need this grant for needed financial assistance to build a new library.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MS. BROWN: We're getting to the end of the line.

Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, and for the honorable Members of our -- for San Marino.

Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Honorable Members of the Library Bond Board. I'm Betty Brown, former library trustee, former mayor of San Marino and a city councilperson right now.

I'd like to add just a few comments in order for the San Marino Public Library to remain a viable institution for learning. We really and truly must build a new building. We have no choice. We explored a remodel years ago, and found that because of the aging condition of the building, it just wasn't feasible.

I'd like to remind you that when our library was built in 1952, Harry Truman was president. And in 1952, we didn't even have a high school in San Marino. And, of course, now we do.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Our library will not happen without state funding. The award will be a green light for us to help us to continue our project, because we do have plans already, and to improve library services.

If you grant it, we will build it.

Thanks for listening to us. And please know that we're very grateful to you, our California legislators, and to the Bond Board Members for your efforts and time that you put into this project. I really do appreciate it.

We sincerely appeal to you for your support; and we have the ultimate trust in your decision-making.

Thank you.

Now, in closing, I'd like to introduce Mrs. Carol Baca and student Emily Barth, who traveled up here from Los Angeles today to let you know how important this library project is to our community.

MS. BACA: Good afternoon.

Can you hear me?

I'm Carol Baca. I'm here to represent my husband, Lee Baca, as the Sheriff of Los Angeles County.

Can you hear me now? Now can you hear me?

CHAIR STARR: Put the green light on.

MS. BACA: Good afternoon. I'm Carol Baca, here to represent my husband, Lee Baca, the Sheriff of Los Angeles County. The San Marino Library is too small and it is unbelievably outdated. And it is a public safety issue for us to maintain the service to keep the place safe. So as the representative of the Los Angeles County Sheriff, Lee Baca, I sincerely urge you to consider San Marino Library as the critical -- very critical point in helping us.

Thank you very much.

And here is our student representative.

Thank you.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MISS BARTH: Hi. I'm Emily Barth, student at Huntington Middle School.

I walk to the library with many of my other students almost every day from my school. It is important to me to rebuild this library, so I'm able to use it for my education. Please consider San Marino for the grant.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, miss.

[Applause]

MR. SAVAGE: Hi. My name is Dan Savage. I'm here today representing Senator Cedillo, who is in strong support of the San Marino Library Project, who couldn't be here today. And I would just like to point out on the population figures, although San Marino is not a fast-growing city, that the areas that it serves, the areas -- the cities surrounding it are incredibly fast-growing. As was pointed out earlier, 40 percent of library card holders and 80 percent of Internet users are from outside the city. So hopefully they will be taken into consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much.

Sir?

MR. FARNETTI: Good afternoon. My name is Tom Farnetti, Mono County Supervisor. And this is Rich McAteer, who is superintendent of Mono County Office of Education and the Mono County Library Authority.

I'm here to speak on the rural question in regards to small library systems. Mono County is separated from the majority of the state by mountain passes that close in the winter, all the way from Tahoe to Bakersfield. We have no commercial air service. The nearest commercial airport is in Reno, Nevada.

Of the six adjacent small rural counties in the Sierras, Mono County is the only applicant. This represents the fact that small library systems have limited resources to put together an application such as this, compared to the highly-populated urban areas. However, remarkably, this region geographically comprises 15 percent of the state.

At 16,000 square feet, this would be the largest library facility in the eastern Sierras, which includes Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties. Our library serves as a

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

regional training lab for the California State Library InFoPeople Project. It would also provide interlibrary loan services for the region. It will provide many valuable resources for the Eastern Sierras, encompassing nearly 10 percent of the state, from Lake Tahoe to Lancaster.

This new collated library facility will serve all schools in Mono County, four of which have no school or community college library facilities. Six school sites will be within a block of the new library; and we have been in partnerships with three -- four school sites in Mono County since 1974, and have the experience necessary to successfully operate library partnerships.

We have approximately three million visitors to our area each year, of which 52,000 could be visiting Mammoth alone on a single winter weekend. Visitor usage of the Mono County Library system is very high. 49 percent of my district is Hispanic; but we lack the ability to adequately serve them in our current undersized, outdated library facility.

And additional space has been committed in this new library to take care of this important segment of our population.

The bottom line is that with the limited resources, our small area has, without Prop. 14 funding, this library will not be built. We respectfully request your favorable consideration to our grant application.

Thank you very much.

MEMBER CORBETT: Dr. Starr, do you mind if I ask a quick question?

CHAIR STARR: I just want to say, thank you, Supervisor.

Do you have a question for the supervisor?

MEMBER CORBETT: I'm sorry. Pardon me for interrupting.

Where is the next closest library to where you locate this library?

MR. FARNETTI: The next closest library?

MEMBER CORBETT: Yes.

MR. FARNETTI: We have an existing library that is about -- I'd say about a mile and a half, that is on leased land; and that area is being developed. And we're

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment***

going to lose that site over a period of time.

We currently have a 20-year lease on that site; but the City of Mammoth owns that site; and that site is being developed for future use.

MEMBER CORBETT: So that's the Mammoth Library. But then where would the next branch of any sort, of any city be, in connection --

MR. FARNETTI: Go ahead, Rich.

MR. McATEER: The next regular library is in Bishop, which is 46 miles from Mammoth.

MEMBER CORBETT: Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Please.

MS. REGALIA Good afternoon. I'm Gwen Regalia, Mayor of the City of Walnut Creek; and it's a pleasure to be here this afternoon.

You heard from our state senator, Richard Rainey, who introduced this; but he also had the kickoff press conference for the bond measure in the Walnut Creek Library. I have to say, I guess we'll be the poster child for the measure. And we certainly do need to see something better.

The building itself that we presently have was built in 1961. It is a concrete tilt-up structure, the kind of construction you would likely see in warehouses than libraries. It has seismic problems. It's not ADA-accessible. It is much too small for the population.

There were about 10,000 people in Walnut Creek when it was built. Today our population is about 65,000. However, we have unincorporated areas that weave in and out of the city, so we're really about 80,000 today.

The library that we would like to build would serve all of that population, plus more.

More than half a century ago, our city council began adopting policies that have been in play all along. They had the foresight to keep the downtown in one place, for example, that has allowed for the growth and development of a very successful city that serves the region, not just the few people who live there. We are a regional-serving community. In fact, the private sector has -- it serves a region through its finance and business centers, as well as the commercial -- the retail

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

restaurants, et cetera.

The public serves the region through our Regional Center for the Arts, for example, with both performing and visual arts. Our arts education program serves the entire central county, including we go out into the schools, last year serving more than 100,000 students, many in very low-income areas.

So I want to point out that a library coming into our downtown center, where you can walk, once you're there, or you can get there by bicycle or public transit, as well as auto, will also be serving the region. It will not just be Walnut Creek; it will serve a good deal of central county.

In addition, we have the support of both our present State Senator, Tom Torlakson -- I know he sent letters to you -- and our Assembly Member, Guy Houston.

As we are looking forward to having a new facility, I will point out that the City of Walnut Creek is emptying its treasury. It will take the last amount of money that we have set aside, to complete the building. We have it set aside; we're ready to go tomorrow. We're often accused of being a very wealthy city; but in effect, what wealth we have had within our city has been because of the good planning and good financial management.

The actual income of our citizenry is probably surprising to you. It is below the -- the average is below that of Contra Costa County, which is below that of the state.

So it again points out, we serve the region and that is one of our goals in trying to get a new library here as well.

In addition, our citizens, just the citizens in Walnut Creek, have passed the parcel tax last year by 69 percent. We can fund the opening of the library and the additional materials. However, we need the partnership with you, the State, in order to build this complex. If you give us the grant, we will start tomorrow. We can be one of your success stories for this measure.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

MS. REGALIA: I'd like to introduce my colleague, the president of the Walnut Creek School Board, Dan Walden. He is also the immediate past the president of the California School Boards Association.

Thank you.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MR. WALDEN: Thank you, Gwen.

Dr. Starr and Members of the Board; I want just to make four points to you regarding this library. First, the library is extremely important to the children of Walnut Creek; and, in particular, the children in my district. Even though we're perceived as an affluent area, Walnut Creek School District's funding from the state places us in the 539th position out of 559 elementary districts. In total funding, we're the lowest in Contra Costa County.

The partnership with the City of Walnut Creek using this new library will help our children in ways that we simply cannot do on our own. The computer and homework help program and the language and literacy development program are based on our district's strategic plan and provide significant support to our district efforts in these areas. The collaboration and training opportunities for our staff will strengthen our capacity to help our students gain the skills they need to access the larger collections of resource and reference materials at the city branch and the county main library.

Second, Walnut Creek, like many areas of the state, is changing demographically. Well in excess of 30 languages are now spoken by the students in our schools. And those are Russian, Farsi, Mandarin and Korean, in addition to Spanish, the predominant language. Our library's bilingual collections are just as important to our children as they are to our families.

Third, the 20-year joint use agreement between the school district and the city came really naturally. These two government bodies have an extensive history of collaboration in the interest of children. But these programs are not exclusive to my school district. The City of Walnut Creek has similar programs with the four other school districts that have portions of the City of Walnut Creek.

Fourth, and in closing, I want to emphasize that this library is a guaranteed success story for joint use projects, built from matching city and state funds. We've been working toward this project for a very long time; and we can begin virtually immediately upon receiving of the bond funding.

Beyond this, we have a Walnut Creek Library Foundation and two Friends group; and I'm proud to be a member of the library foundation to solicit the private funding for the finishing touches to the community portions of the library, larger book and media collections and up-to-date technology for accessing resource materials.

So on behalf of the Walnut Creek School District and the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, please help us build this library.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Superintendent.

MS. SORENSEN: Honorable Chair and Members of the Commission, my name is Kathy Sorensen. I'm the director of community services in Signal Hill, California. I'm here speaking on behalf of Mayor Michael Knoll, and our city librarian, Carol Malloy.

I'm going to incorporate Mr. Knoll's speech into mine because, due to the fires, his flight was rescheduled from a five-thirty flight, to a three o'clock flight, and he has a council meeting. So I'm going to put these two together.

Mr. Knoll, our mayor, would like to speak on behalf of our project, which is 2055. The Library Bond Act grant application was a very enlightening experience for him, and it came to him firsthand to know how valuable our library is.

He would tell you that he's a non-user of the library, and that he rarely would step into the library, except if there was a Friends meeting or something going on; and that he had been on the City Council for ten years and heard many times from his peers and constituents that a new library was a priority. And he would say, "Yes, but is it a nice priority or is it a necessary priority?" That, even in good fiscal times, Mayor Knoll would always say: "Is it nice or is it necessary?" And after the one and a half year process that he ended up having to chair, he now believes that this is a necessary priority for the City of Signal Hill.

In 1931, Signal Hill built a firehouse. It was 4,200 square feet. In 1978, the library moved into that firehouse. It has asbestos. It's not up to earthquake code. It's very small. And except for good conversation with the planning official, it probably would be closed down. And since that time, we have had a 78 percent increase in population, most of which is occurred within the last five years.

The application for Signal Hill is on the cusp, between "outstanding" and "very good." And that the mayor would ask that you give careful consideration when you look at your final selections.

And I would add to that cusp, is that I want to thank the staff especially of the office of Library Construction for reviewing the applications. I know it's a very time-consuming and difficult task, with decisions and numerical factoring. And with that in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to review the applications in the "very good" category and cull them down to those that have at least two 4's. And in that body, that the remaining be looked at, that have 3's. They are the strongest applications and those are the ones that should be funded.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

As Mr. Hall stated, this is a strong group; there's stiff competition. So if the "outstanding's" are A's and A-minuses -- with A-minus being three 4's and one 3, and "very good's" are B's -- then B-pluses should be those with two 4's and three 3's.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

And be sure and tell Mayor Knoll that there's more joy in having the one lost sheep who returns than the 99 who were never lost.

MS. SORENSEN: And he's found.

CHAIR STARR: Yes, thank you.

MR. BOOKHAMMER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Members of the Board. My name is Chuck Bookhammer; and I'm the assistant chief of staff to the chair of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

And I'm here to express Supervisor Burke's strong support for the Lawndale project. Supervisor Burke has dedicated and committed over 4 million dollars to this project for our matching funds. The project represents a closed partnership between the County and the City of Lawndale, in terms of planning the facility and acquiring the site in the city's civic center. If approved, the library will be a key part of the city's long-term development of its civic center.

The residents of Lawndale desperately need a larger library and improved library services.

To give you an example, the current library facility is over 50 years old and approximately 1,700 square feet. The new facility would be 17,000 square feet, and would meet the needs of the city's library needs until the year -- much beyond the year 2020.

Some of the key demographics of the City of Lawndale are: One-third of the residents are under the age of 18. 52 percent of the residents identify themselves as Hispanic. The city population has increased 35 percent between 1980 and the year 2000; and the residential density of the City of Lawndale is 16,000 per square mile.

The new library will provide: 38 computers for public use, and the materials collection is 40 percent larger than the current collection; a dedicated children's area,

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

a teen center, 123 reading seats versus the existing 20 reading seats today, a community meeting room, a technology training room, and a group study room. It would also provide more than significant on-site parking which the existing facility does not have. And the reason why I bring that up is, it comes to my attention that your staff report indicates that there is not sufficient parking. But I would request that you have your staff go back and relook at the proposal and see that, indeed, we do have the necessary parking for this project.

The county and the city has developed a joint use cooperative agreement with the Centinela Valley High School District to operate both the homework center and a career center in this new library to serve the elementary, middle school, and high school for the city. Our application is for 6.6 million dollars, of state matching funds for the project. And the county has committed and earmarked its share of those funds for the project. Plus, the county has also committed to provide an annual operating cost of over 750,000 dollars for this project.

And with that, sir, and Members of the Board, I'd like to introduce the mayor of Lawndale, Harold Hoffman.

CHAIR STARR: Your Honor, just as a point of information, we've also received a very strong letter, supporting the Lawndale project from Speaker of the Assembly Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

MR. HOFFMAN: Dr. Starr, Board Members, I'm Harold Hoffman. I am the mayor of Lawndale. I have been for 14 years. I'm here to speak in support of the Lawndale Joint Youth Library.

Our new library is essential for two major reasons: The existing library is so inadequate in meeting its basic needs. It will support the schools in our diverse lower-income area by providing a missing link, in helping kids improve their educational performance in our school system.

These facts illustrate the scale of our need. The current library has 0.11 square feet per capita. The minimum county guideline is 0.5. There are 1.6 volumes per capita. The guideline is 2.75. There are 0.6 seats per thousand persons. And the need is two and a half seats per thousand.

There is one computer for 4,000 people. The standard is one computer for 1,000 people.

There is no storytelling space. And the guideline is 25 seats in a dedicated area. There is no meeting room; and the guideline is spaced for 75 adults, or 100

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

children. There is no group study or tutoring space; and the guideline is at least for eight seats in a dedicated room.

There is no homework center. The new library will have a homework center with six computers, with seating for 12.

Unlike some applicants, our funding is in hand. We are ready to start construction immediately.

Thank you for letting us talk to you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor.

MS. CALIX: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, Members of the Board. My name is Maria Calix, board president of the Centinela Valley Union High School District, and delegate of the California School Board Members Association.

The library is much needed by our schools, as you have heard, the population has grown tremendously, especially among its youth. Please consider the STAR and Stanford 9 scores, which are significantly lower in our area than most of the other South Bay districts. Lawndale, as you have heard, is predominantly lower income, with 52 percent Hispanic. And it's a rather young population and of vastly immigrant families.

Compared to surrounding areas, and the County of Los Angeles and the State, we have a population with lower educational attainment, and a higher rate of female head of families, and a higher poverty rate. And because of those statistics, a lot of our students do not have the means at home -- whether it's in this vastly growing age of the technology -- some of them don't have the facilities at home or the resources, and this library will provide those resources that will enable them to progress and be college-bound.

The new library will play a central role in helping our students reach the opportunities in our society. The library will be a community information and learning center. The Centinela Valley Union High School District is totally committed to fully operating a homework center and a career center within a strong functional joint use agreement. Neither of these services are available in the area now, and they are essential for better education. I wish to expand on your staff's evaluation of our project by confirming that the county library school district will meet every year to evaluate needs and make improvements to an already strong working relationship.

The career center materials will be updated annually and computers replaced

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

every three years. The school district will assist in staffing both centers.

As far as transportation and accessibility, the library is approximately one block away from Hawthorne Boulevard. And this boulevard does have services of the MTA, Senior Ride Transportation means, as well as the city trolley; whereby the nearest bus stop is within two blocks.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much for that presentation.

MS. CALIX: I appreciate your time and effort in what you're doing.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: I'm going to have to make some points here, that we have -- what does that say, about twenty after four. And we have -- we lose our quorum at six o'clock. And that means that -- I certainly don't feel a State Librarian is in a position to bully people when they're talking about their deepest aspirations, their communities, et cetera. But if we lose our quorum, this whole thing rolls over for another year or so. So you've got to really monitor yourself. You're all library people. You're all -- you don't need me to bully you. We've got to move it along. And I would like to finish by about a quarter to five, ten to five, the testimony, so that we can move on to the voting; or we'll see it again next year. And I know you don't want that and I don't want that.

But at the same time, I'm hearing these powerful stories about your communities, your hopes for your communities, so I don't want to be rude to you. So maybe we can self-regulate.

Mrs. Auth?

MS. AUTH: Thank you, Dr. Starr. I'm Judith Auth, the director of the Riverside City Library. And I'm here on behalf of the neighborhood of Arlington. We have a library in Arlington that was built in 1910. It was built as a fire station with a 1,500 square foot library attached. That library has become the center of a neighborhood that has not increased in size but has doubled in density, as new immigrants have come into the area.

The library is the proverbial lamp for that community. It provides a safe haven for the children. It is the source of upward advancement for the families; and it is a means of social connection for the entire community. I'd like to point out that the City of Riverside recognized the importance of their libraries by voting 69 percent in favor of a parcel tax that would increase the library operations by 20 hours a week, and by doubling the number of programs for children. That commitment is the first parcel tax

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

that was ever passed in the City of Riverside in the last 40 years. So the people of Riverside have voted with their fee that they would support this library. The neighborhood is aging. The building is deteriorating. And we respectfully request your assistance.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mrs. Auth.

Sir?

MR. TATE: Yes, my name is Steve Tate. I'm from the City of Morgan Hill. I'm the library guy on the City Council in the City of Morgan Hill. And I have to tell you, I'm here and a little disappointed. I'm frustrated and somewhat confused.

But, on the other hand, I'm also very appreciative and very encouraged by what I've seen here today. So let me explain why that's so.

We submitted our first-round application; and it was "outstanding," in our opinion. But you came back and said: No, it's not "outstanding"; it's "very good." You're "very good" in three of the categories; and you're "outstanding" in one of the categories.

So we said, "Okay, we understand that. We need to get a little bit better in two of the categories." So we did everything that we could possibly come up with. We, of course, went to the successful applications and picked up the ideas there that met the needs of our community, because that was an easy thing to do. We, of course, even hired some consultants to tell us how to do it a little bit better.

But the major thing that we did was come to you and have a debriefing session with the staff; and we got some outstanding ideas that I thought put us exactly on the right track to improving our application. And we kind of centered our improvements for the second round, what we were told by the staff, would be taken to improve the application.

Well, what happened was our technology, which we worked the hardest to improve, slipped from a 3 to a 2, while the siting slipped from a 4 to a 3. So we went down in two categories. So that's why I'm a little bit disappointed -- I'm a lot disappointed and a little bit frustrated and confused; but I was very appreciative of the comments that I heard the Board making earlier, asking the staff about how those things came about and so forth. And I've always been very appreciative of the staff because they have been outstanding in terms of their support of the applicants, in

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

terms of the classes that have been held and so forth.

So I guess I'm very encouraged also that they will again point us in the right direction; and we'll be back for a third round. And we are Morgan Hill; and we have an "outstanding" application, and we're just going to make you believe it.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Sir, the second round is not finished yet. Be optimistic.

MR. TATE: If we hadn't dropped quite so much, I would be pleading to just push it over. We are on the cusp; but we're not quite on the cusp. Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Yes, sir?

MR. JACOBSON: Good afternoon. My name is Bob Jacobson from the Fallbrook Library. I'm the previous president and right now I'm campaign chairman.

But before I start, I'd like to read a brief statement from Marilyn Crouch, who is our county library director; but she is unable to be here today because of the fire. And Marilyn just said that in order to provide the management for the staff during the fire threat that is devastating the county, she had to remain behind. All 32 branches of the San Diego County Library have been closed due to the fire, which threatens many library branches. Many of the library staff, including Marilyn, have been evacuated from their homes.

She's asked me to just read this one paragraph to you:

"The new library is pivotal to the revitalization of the isolated rural agricultural community of Fallbrook. The Fallbrook revitalization plan will rebuild the downtown area, and is considered by the board of supervisors to be the model for revitalization of all of San Diego County."

And just my couple of comments here, is that we start a Round 2 plan to raise funds. We knew we had a short amount of time; and we were able to do this in nine months, in a difficult economic period; and we raised 1.9 million dollars.

And I think this really demonstrates the support of the community, of not only individuals, but businesses and organizations.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

And the other thing I would like to emphasize with 1.9 million dollars is, the funds we have are banked. They're ready to be used. So they're there, earning interest all the time.

And so not only did we get the funds from the individuals, but we had some major gifts and the state gifts, which to me was a validation of the confidence that people have in the ability of the Friends to manage the money.

The other thing as far as our fundraising ability, we'll start doing that once we would be approved; and that we have an ongoing commitment and way of bringing in funds, because we have a very successful bookstore operation, used bookstore operation in Fallbrook called "The Bottom Shelf." And we've raised 60,000 dollars each year from those used books.

And so the Proposition 14 funds will provide us a new building; but certainly we have the wherewithal and the commitment to continue that with the funding so that we'll get the services and the collections going.

Thank you.

MS. JEFFRIES: Thanks, Bob.

Dr. Starr and Members of the Board, my name is Jennifer Jeffries; and I'm the current president of Friends of the Library. I'm also the former superintendent of Fallbrook Elementary School District.

The value added to this project comes in four forms. In a sense, it's a four-fer. We get a new library. In that new library, we expand our programs for the 12,000 individuals in our community that are 19 years of age or younger; and the rest of the population as well. We also get an anchor for our economic revitalization efforts; and we get to convert our current library facility into an agribusiness center, that will serve the agricultural interests within our region.

The new library will be sited and nestled in walking distance of three schools and the Boys and Girls Club. Over 1,400 students and their families who live -- many of whom live in that area in older homes and apartment buildings will be able to walk -- will be teeming in our homework center. There will be so many of them in there. So we ask you to consider the magnification of these dollars. It's not just a library. We get the library-plus. And we're hoping that you'll give us the opportunity to expand our library services through our new building and through our commitment and vision for our town.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Thanks so much for your time.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for a model of succinct and effective presentation.

[Applause]

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yay, Fallbrook.

CHAIR STARR: She told us she was going to tell us four points. She told us four points. She told us, once again, that she had just told us four points, and then she left. And that's very effective and it's courteous to everyone who has come here from all over the state.

So let's keep each other in mind, as we make our presentations.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. SCHMIDT: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. My name is Eleanor Schmidt; and I am the director of library services for the City of Long Beach, representing Mayor O'Neill, who was not able to be here because of travel difficulties.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the MacArthur Park Library Project. This project was given an "outstanding" rating.

You will hear about many worthy libraries and deserving communities today. And we feel that the MacArthur Carter Park Library might just be the most important one that you to consider.

A new library will serve 62,000 people, an intensely diverse mix that is the microcosm of the City of Long Beach, which as many of you may know, is already the most ethnically-diverse large city in the United States.

The population is largely Hispanic, Asian, and includes the largest Cambodian population in the world today, outside of Cambodia. Almost half -- 44 percent -- of the population are children and teenagers.

This is a poor community. The current library is a 45-year-old, 2,100 square foot building, which is the size of a shoebox, serving a population of 65,000. The new library will be a 16,155 square foot library: Eight times the size of the current facility.

The current facility has only ten computer workstations. There is no community

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

room for programming. There are no public restrooms in the library. A new library is desperately needed for the community.

This library will serve also as a catalyst for the revitalization for the neighborhood. It will be a community and cultural anchor and a landmark of civic pride. We will create a synergy that can transform the neighborhood.

And now I would like to introduce Mr. Sarabruth Prakh [phonetic].

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for your very concise presentation.

MR. PRAKH: Dr. Starr, ladies and gentlemen. Last week, there were two teenagers that were shot to death.

One is Sokki Khak Ung, a highly-decorated Marine corporal, who rescued Private Jessica Lynch in Iraq. He just came back and was shot in his back yard.

The other young boy is a student at Long Beach State College and an inspired rapper, whose lyrics inspired kids to get out of gangs, respect to the parent and to the teacher, become a good citizen of this country.

The killing was just about two blocks from the Mark Twain Library, MacArthur Library Branch. As you know, MacArthur Park is located in the central area of Long Beach -- the hot spot, the poorest and the most densely-populated area in the city. This senseless accident could be prevented if all the kids in Long Beach are educated. They can avoid this fighting for no reason, by competing with each other, instead of through bullets.

How could we, taxpayers, make an investment in this? Do you want to invest in bullets? If you have gangs, you will have more gangs, more judges, more juries, more jail, more city prosecutors. You waste a lot of taxpayer money.

But if you invest in books, that means library. You increase the brain capacity.

These kids from 6 years old to 11 years old are packed like sardines at the Mark Twain Library. If you have the chance to visit, you will have a sadness in your mind. Surrounding the library at MacArthur Park, it was first struck by the Crips, the black gang, and the Cambodian Tiny Rascals Gang. But inside that, 2,000 square feet tiny library of Mark Twain, you see all the kids from different ethnicities, packed like sardines, trying to learn.

Myself, I'm an adult man, but I'm still a big fan of this library. I used to work for

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

ten years for the United States Congressman Bob Dornan in Orange County, a conservative Republican. Most of the time, when Congressman Dornan asked me to do research for his briefing at Capitol Hill, I spend my time at this Mark Twain Library. It's small, but good quality; because it had a big collection of Cambodian books and Cambodian language -- the biggest collection outside of Cambodia. You see students from Fulton -- from Northern California to Southern California come to this library to make research. I've got the information from that Cambodian language book and feed it to Congressman Dornan.

But I'm not alone. There are so many scholars and many Cambodians who have a lot of favorite feeling for this library. Therefore, I am very grateful to all you ladies and gentlemen for putting American taxpayer dollars on this book. In the long term, your investment will bear fruit for every penny.

There is an old Chinese saying from several thousand years ago.

If you want a one-year result, plant rice because you can have a rice crop in one year.

If you want ten-years' result, plant the trees. You put the seed in the soil. In ten years, it will bear fruit.

If you want a hundred years' result, plant the people. And I think you made a right decision for planting the books and the brains of the kids, because ten years from today, this kid will become a good citizen, law-abiding citizen and create less gang violence in this community and it will save a lot of taxpayer money.

Again, on behalf of Mayor Beverly O'Neill of the City of Long Beach, as well as all the ethnic -- the different ethnicities in the city, I am profoundly indebted to all of you for everything, the MacArthur Park Branch Library, the "outstanding" quality. Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir; and please accept the condolences of the entire library community for the loss of that young Cambodian American Marine in such tragic circumstances.

MR. PRAKH: Yes, sir. Thank you.

MR. BORO: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, and Members of the Board. My name is Al Boro. I'm the mayor of the City of San Rafael.

I'm here to talk to you about the Pickleweed Park Project. It's a 1.2

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

million-dollar project. It's the smallest of all the projects in the top two categories. However, it's part of a larger 6.7 million dollar project that will have enormous impact on the 12,000 residents living within one square of this facility.

The Pickleweed Library request is also only one of two in the top two categories that is dealing with renovation. The city has been very successful through a public-private partnership in raising 5.5 million dollars to date to renovate and expand the community center. We work closely with our very diverse community that was described to you by Assemblyman Nation; and their number-one pick for improvements at this center was the library, along with a computer lab and a learning center. The Canal neighborhood truly represents an urban community within a suburban city.

The Pickleweed Library will advance the city's efforts to mainstream multicultural population into the Greater San Rafael community. People of our Canal neighborhoods have been working with our police, our firefighters, paramedics, and the city staff to create a safer and healthier neighborhood.

They gather at Pickleweed Park to learn and play and celebrate the many cultures that are the heart of the Canal. The results have been gratifying; but we're not finished. We need library services that these residents can access. The Pickleweed Library will be beyond books and magazines to include technology and a homework center.

Pickleweed is the central address of the neighborhood, the optimum site of a new library because it already hosts the largest number of visits of any public building in the City of San Rafael. More than 80 percent of the residents that the library services live within 2,400 feet of the library's front door. Many people walk to the community center; and bike routes extend throughout the neighborhood. Three bus routes serve the area, provide transportation to approximately 5,400 people each day. Three bus stops serve all three routes and are within one-quarter mile of the site, including one that was within 400 feet of the site.

Because our request is modest, your decision to fund it will not preclude the Board from funding other worthy projects. We will leverage the investment five times over to complete this project; and we are ready to start work this coming fall.

I thank you very much for your attention and your perseverance this afternoon.

And I'd like to introduce to you Jeanette Sotomayor [phonetic] who lives in our Canal and works at Pickleweed Center.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

MS. SOTOMAYOR: Good afternoon. My name is Jeanette Sotomayor; and I have been a resident of the community for over 15 years. And I have raised two wonderful children in the Canal neighborhood. I manage the office at the Pickleweed Community Center in San Rafael.

I have come here today to support the proposal for the expansion of the Pickleweed Library. I have had the pleasure of witnessing the birth of our small branch library and have watched it grow to become a vital community asset.

Daily, I see the school-age children who utilize it as a homework resource center, a research facility, a reading room, and to check out books. I also witness the value of the library services to the preschool children who attend regularly for story time.

Many families and adults utilize the library during the evening and weekend hours of operation. Our on-site child care center is a frequent user of the library.

One example of recreational programs integrating with the library services is our After-School and Summer Kids Club. These programs serve over 150 children with educational, recreational, and tutoring activities. Kids Club is a daily user of the library, at Pickleweed Community Center.

As a program housed at this center, Kids Club uses the library facility for homework, research and reading. The current space is always full. So the kids can only access the library in shifts, as to accommodate everyone.

Most of the children that use the library do not have a space at home to study. Very few have access to computers or books necessary to complete their homework. We have found that the library creates a wonderful atmosphere to learning and all the children to study and read.

The children are bright and full of potential with limited opportunities and resources. There is a tremendous need to offer support for these students; and the expansion of the library will be a tremendous help. Not only will Kids Club benefit from the other space; so will the community, as there will be increased services for adults and teens.

We see this as a great opportunity for children and families to learn and grow together. Having this expanded library connected to the community center a half block from a school is an ideal situation. In a community that is lacking in educational, cultural, social and recreational space, this project is an essential

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

component for all of our success.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for your beautiful presentation.

MS. BOSCH-COBB: I'm Karen Bosch-Cobb. I'm the interim county librarian for Fresno County. And if I could have your indulgence, I have two projects from the Central Valley. We're in the Central Valley Room; and I want to call your attention to these important projects.

First of all, is a project in Mendota. It's been given an "outstanding" ranking. And I think that's because of our partnership with the Mendota School District. We have come together to solve some important problems in the Mendota community. And there are five problems that we see.

First of all, nearly two-thirds of the community does not have a high school diploma.

Secondly, per capita income is 6,400 dollars a year. 40 percent of people in this community live below the poverty level. This is the second worst in the State.

Third, the 2003 CAT-6 scores released yesterday revealed that 77 percent of the students scored below the national reading level, and 62 percent scored below the national math level.

Fourth, Mendota's unemployment rate last year was 35.9 percent. This is the highest of any city in the state. On Tuesday, this past week, the federal government stated that it plans to build a new prison in Mendota, which would employ 1,300 new people. However, unless the residents of Mendota have the education that they can get from the library and the school, they can't get the jobs to work there.

Finally, the percentage of illiteracy in Fresno County is 29 percent. That means that nearly a third of the people in the county cannot even balance their checkbooks. So we formed an important partnership.

And I'd like to introduce Dr. Gil Rossette to make a few remarks.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MR. ROSSETTE: Dr. Starr, Members of the Board, Gil Rossette, superintendent of the Mendota Unified School District.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

I'm a life-long resident of the City of Mendota. And I can honestly state that a project of this magnitude would not only bring a sign of progress to the City of Mendota, but also as a symbol of pride and, more importantly, a symbol of what we want to call the most important aspect, which is the -- I'm just losing everything here, I'm sorry.

As a superintendent, I, for one, can say that I know what these parents are going through. I grew up in the community. I went through the school system, and I can actually say that I've experienced what these members of the community are experiencing.

If I may, I'd like to touch on, more importantly, the data that's been presented to you because --

CHAIR STARR: Sir, I think that --

MR. ROSSETTE: I'm sorry, Dr. Starr.

CHAIR STARR: I think you've made a very eloquent presentation. You're an "outstanding" category. You speak with such great sincerity. The students of Mendota School District are fortunate to have you as their superintendent. Any more data will repeat the data which has already been presented. Let's take the passion and forget the data.

MR. ROSSETTE: Let's forget the data, I concur with you.

CHAIR STARR: And your passion as an educator for this project shines through.

MR. ROSSETTE: May I give a personal note?

CHAIR STARR: Please.

MR. ROSSETTE: A personal note: I walked the streets of Mendota, and I can honestly say that walking through the streets as a kindergartner, I've walked through our current library, which is a small one-room library. As a kindergartner, I ran home and I told my mom and dad, "I just went to the library. I'm going back; and I wish to stay there until closing time." My parents allowed me to do that. That pattern continued every single day, until the time that I got to the junior high. I got involved with gang activity; but one thing remained constant: I maintained my visits to the library.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

I believe that my gangbangers were kind of alleviated that I left the gang because I was a so-called nerd. But for that, I can say that the library turned my life around. And with that, I can tell you that this is what we live for in our community.

CHAIR STARR: Right.

MR. ROSSETTE: So with that, again, I appreciate your time. I appreciate your effort. Let's give the citizens and our students of the community of Mendota what they richly deserve; and that's an opportunity to advance in their studies and their career goals.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir. A very eloquent presentation. Thank you.

Anyone else from Mendota?

Let's move forward, please.

I'm going to assert myself a little more, only with the permission of everyone here, because I know you want a vote today. You don't want to go home and wait another year.

[Applause]

MR. SANTINI: Kevin Starr and Members of the Board. My name is Primo Santini, mayor, City of Lincoln. The people standing before you are not going to make comments; but I will introduce them.

We have Karen Roberts who is the president of the board of trustees, Western Placer Unified School District. We have David Ferrari, who is the president, board of Trustees, Sierra Community College School District. We have Kevin Ramirez, president, Sierra Community College. We have also behind me, Roger Yohi, who is the superintendent, Western Placer Unified School District. And we have also our city manager, City of Lincoln, Jerry Johnson.

CHAIR STARR: Your Honor, your library has received an "outstanding" recommendation.

Would you tell me in about fifty to a hundred words why I received that?

MR. SANTINI: I think you primarily received it for one particular reason: It's the people you see behind you here, and also the people that are in the audience that

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

have made the bus trip down here from the City of Lincoln. I'd like them to stand up, too.

CHAIR STARR: Would you please stand up, City of Lincoln people?

Thank you very much.

I don't have to call each of these to testify.

[Laughter]

MR. SANTINI: That is why. And this process actually, although we had a great spirit of communication before and cooperation, this process has made it all that much better. And I know it's going to pay dividends into the future.

CHAIR STARR: Well, Your Honor, thank you for rallying your community behind this project.

MR. SANTINI: Thank you.

[Applause]

MS. BOSCH-COBB: Karen Bosch-Cobb, I want to speak now on behalf of the Fowler Library, which is ranked as a "very good" project. In this community, we also have a joint project with the school district to solve issues which are so important in this rural community.

36 percent of the residents do not have a high school diploma. One out of every five people live below the poverty level. The per capita income is less than half of what the state average is. The unemployment rate is nearly 23 percent, compared to California's 5.3.

Fowler is also facing significant growth. It is near the community of the City of Fresno; and they're expecting a 30 percent growth rate.

So our collaboration, I think, is important. And Dr. John Cruz, who is a superintendent of the school district, has some remarks to make.

MR. CRUZ: Thank you, Dr. Starr, Members of the Board. In light of our reception for Mendota's comments, I just want to point out that Fowler is very, very close to Mendota. In fact, the more I speak, probably the closer we will get to Mendota.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

Fowler is located in the central San Joaquin Valley, as you know. It's small, it's rural, it's isolated. We are very excited about the project, particularly the joint use agreement that we have with the Fowler Branch Library, that will provide our kids with technology, additional resources, literacy nights for kids and for families, and things of that nature.

If you look at our project, you will see that in terms of total dollar amounts, the Fowler Unified -- the Fowler project is one of the smallest that you have. So it could be very conceivably slipped into some category that will allow you to fund it. And also I might point out that next to opening a McDonald's, having a new library in Fowler could probably be one of the most exciting things to happen in the community.

So thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

[Applause]

CHAIR STARR: A very good presentation.

Now, if you want us to slip it in, sir, you give us a presentation that gives us time to slip it in.

Yes, sir?

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, Members of the Board, good afternoon. And I admire your patience and your fortitude.

I'm with the City of Half Moon Bay. My name is Rollie Wright. I have with me the library director, Maya Kennedy.

I wish I could compare our library project to an artichoke. Maybe I can do it to a pumpkin, since we just celebrated the pumpkin festival. But I can't, so I'll talk about the merits of the project.

My presentation will be very short. What I'm going to try to do is just talk about why we should have gotten an "outstanding" as opposed to a "very good."

The City of Half Moon Bay's library, which serves over 300 square miles of coastsides, is truly isolated. We don't have the option of going from one city to the next, to go to a library. Our closest library at most times is 45 minutes away; and

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

when the traffic gets bad, it's over an hour away. So in fact, we did a survey of our citizens, and only 5 percent indicated that they would go over the hill to the library. 95 percent stayed within our own library.

And as you've read in our presentation, we propose to have our library go from approximately 7,000 square feet, to 33,000 square feet, which to me indicates quite a large need for all coast side residents.

We are also not blessed with alternatives to libraries. We don't have a community college in our town. We don't have a state college in our town. Our school district is very poor, so their library services are very inadequate. And, in fact, if you were to come to the existing library, you'd see that a majority of the middle school kids, elementary school kids use our library as their homework center.

Another issue that we feel we should have received an "outstanding," are the needs of our community, the needs of this library. This library, as I mentioned, is totally inadequate in size. It's overburdened and overused by a middle school. Our middle school is literally 200 feet away from the library. So it serves quite the needs of the community.

Our library site is also four blocks from the elementary school, two blocks from downtown. It has bus stops in the area. It couldn't be a better site.

We serve a very large Hispanic community, as evidenced by the Hispanic programs that we offer in the library.

In terms of technology which we have in our proposal, again with a poor school district, they are desperately in need of technology and computer centers; and that's something this new library is going to provide.

The last item that I'm going to talk about is our school district partnership, which we took a lot of pride in, in developing with the school district. For a school district without a lot of money, it was difficult and challenging for them to provide the resources to come up with our joint use agreement; but they did. They are going to provide teachers to come into our library, to help with literacy; they're going to provide some of their own software to our computers, to assist students in homework; and they're also going to provide some of our own school books to the library so those students can do their homework.

So we truly are getting resource sharing from our library. It's not in cash but it's in kind services that we value even more.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

So in conclusion, please consider our library project as an "outstanding" one as opposed to "very good." We have quite a support from the community, from our board of supervisors in the county that we're working with, and the entire coast side community.

With that, we thank you for your time; and hopefully I stayed within my three minutes. Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: You do make a very powerful point. You are "outstanding" on a moral, cultural level. These evaluations are technical. And if things don't work out today, they can be improved. Other people have done it. And I think your map is very effective, showing the isolation of your particular community from other libraries.

MS. BOSCH-COBB: Thank you, Dr. Starr.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Dr. Starr.

CHAIR STARR: Yes?

MS. LAND: Good afternoon. My name is Abby Land. I'm a City Councilmember from the City of West Hollywood. I'm here with my city manager, Paul Aravelo. But I will just make my remarks and I will keep them as brief as I can. I thank you all for your attention all this long afternoon.

I'm here representing 37,000 people; but I'm also representing the 100,000 people that are in our city day in and day out. I'm also representing hundreds of people that participated in a four-year process, as we looked at the fact that we have a 5,500 square foot library now that's woefully inadequate for our community. And for four years, we spent time with a diverse group of stakeholders, thinking about what was needed in our community. In fact, the needs assessment that we provided, all your evaluators rated as "outstanding" for its comprehensive data-driven approach.

This library that we are proposing increases so much for the region. It's not only for West Hollywood; it is for the region. We will have regional collections, collections of regional significance from the June L. Mazer Collection for the Lesbian and Gay Community, to the Ron Stone HIV and AIDS Archives. We'll also have special collections for design, citizen rights empowerment collections. It will be amazing collections for the folks.

The other thing that I think is unique about this, and when you talk about value added, we are a very dense community, probably one of the densest west of

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

Mississippi. And we were particularly challenged in finding a perfect site for our library. We found a site in our West Hollywood park where we will not only be able to site the library, which is within -- there's 34 bus stops within a quarter mile of this library, so it will make it incredibly accessible; but we will also be able to redesign our parks, so we gain about four acres of green space; and in an urban setting, green space is critical. This library is truly a win-win. It's a win for our community. It's a win for the Greater Los Angeles community. It's a win for our schools. We'll be able to improve literacy. It's a win for the 20 percent of our community who are immigrants, who don't speak English, to be able to improve literacy and provide career development for them. This will be a win for the State because we are practically ready to go and get this on the ground.

I hope you'll consider funding us today. I really appreciate your time.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Councilwoman.

MR. PRICE: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, Members of the panel. I'm Harry Price, vice mayor of the city of Fairfield and a retired high school teacher of English for 38 years. And I'm here to thank you for giving the Fairfield-Cordelia Library an "outstanding" rating. And I would simply like to say to you that it received an "outstanding" rating because it represents the very best in cooperation among the City of Fairfield, very high priority, Solano County, the County Library Services, the County Office of Education, and the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

This library will be the first library in this area of a rapidly-growing section of Fairfield, and it will serve two elementary schools, one new high school, one middle school, a community college and universities nearby. It is the literary link to those students in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District who speak more than 42 distinctly different languages.

And with me today is school board trustee, Anne Griffin, who would like to share with you what some third graders have to say about what this library will do for them.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Vice-Mayor.

MS. GRIFFIN: So eloquently and succinctly put, Harry. Thank you.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Yes, I'm Anne Griffin. I'm vice president of the Fairfield-Suisun School Board. And I thought I'd share with you a few comments about what the third graders in the Cordelia area have to say about needing a library.

Haley says, "We need a library for children. Some people live far away."

Another child, Lauren, says, "I don't like driving on the freeway. It's a long way away." And I would hope that as a third grader, Lauren is not driving on the freeway.

We also have another student, named Keaton that said, "We need a library so kids could get smarter, so that me and my mom won't have to drive a long way." Maybe they can car-pool with Lauren.

And another child named Katie said, "Because it's fun to read and you can get smarter in school."

And then we asked the students -- well, the teachers asked the students how they would use the library on their first visit; and I'm just going to make this very short by saying that Haley kind of summed it up. She said, "I will get everything I need."

So I would like to ask you to help Haley and all the rest of our residents in the Fairfield, the Cordelia area of Fairfield get everything they need from a local library.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

It makes me think that in Round 3, we'll have just three-year-olds testifying; and we'll be out by three in the afternoon.

[Laughter]

MR. CONABLE: Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. When I got up this morning, I never dreamed I would be addressing you this afternoon. On the way to the airport, Gary Christmas, the Riverside county librarian, called me to tell me that his daughter had developed respiratory problems because of the smoke from the fires in Southern California. He had to cancel his trip and he asked me to pinch-hit for him. I'm not as eloquent as Gary; but I will try to be as brief as I'm sure he would have been.

CHAIR STARR: Your name is, sir?

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MR. CONABLE: Gordon Conable.

I have three brief points:

First, Riverside County Library System supports the improved application which is now "outstanding" from the City of Temecula, our partner in providing library service in southwestern Riverside County.

Second, we would be delighted if you could find the means to fund the applications from our neighboring libraries, the "outstanding" applications from the Murrieta and the applications from the City of Riverside and from Moreno Valley.

At last, in case there's a little space left, in the "very good," when you get to funding, I'd like to draw briefly your attention to our project, Project 2006, for the Rubidoux Community Library, and to give you three points to consider.

First, it's the second-fastest growing population in your "very good" applicants.

Second, you have made investments in the Riverside County library system in support of literacy. We have one of the largest literacy programs in the state. And we are moving our literacy headquarters into this library when it is built, to support the joint venture project, which is a family literacy program, being brought into the building by our cooperating Alvord School District.

Finally, we just received news that the Inland Library System is getting an LSTA grant to do an automation platform, to bring together a union catalog and support resource-sharing among libraries in San Bernardino County, Riverside County, Mono County, Inyo County and many independent public school and college libraries in that huge Inland Empire and eastern California area. The headquarters of which that automation system will be housed will be in the Rubidoux building when it's built.

Lastly, this is my final point, this project is the anchor of an economic development project intended to revitalize an area -- an unincorporated area in the northwest corner of Riverside County, which needs jobs, which needs literacy training, and by bringing -- and this project is the keystone of a large economic development project which the county is investing to upgrade all aspects of life in that community.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for your focus and rapid-fire presentation.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MR. TOVAR: Dr. Starr, Members of the Board, I am Albert Tovar, library director for the City of Azusa; and I'm very happy to say that I have seven people with me. And I'm even happier to say that they're not all going to speak.

But I have our mayor with us, two library commissioners, two representatives from our school district and one library advocate.

And I would first like to introduce Xilonin Cruz Gonzalez, who is a member of our school board in the City of Azusa.

MS. CRUZ GONZALES: Thank you. I just would like to speak briefly about the joint use agreement between the district and the city. We are going to help the city develop and operate four centers within the library. It will be a homework center, a career center, a literary center, and a computer center. And these four centers will bring much-needed opportunities to the students of our district and to their families. And I would just like to add on a personal side, that I believe that this library will be a central component in developing a community of lifelong learners in the City of Azusa.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am.

MS. MADRID: Thank you, Chairman Starr, Members of the Board.

My name is Cristina Madrid. I'm the mayor of the City of Azusa. It's a pleasure to be with you and to hear the great love of books here in the state of California in all these communities. It's inspiring and tiring at the same time; but it is great.

And the City of Azusa is among the "very good" candidates and it's been "very good" for the second cycle. And we're asking for funding because Azusa is a community that's had libraries longer than it's been incorporated as a city. Our library history is over 100 years. We've had a Carnegie library. And we continue to be very active, serving not only our community, but the surrounding communities that adjoin us.

We had a bond measure that's passed by a vote of -- let me check that for sure -- 76.46 percent in November of last year. That bond measure will expire because it went concurrent with this bond measure here that is before the state of California.

So if we do not be funded this cycle or next cycle, then it lapses. And we're concerned about that; and that's why we're asking for your additional consideration.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

The national forest which abuts the City of Azusa says that coming through the City of Azusa to visit the national forest is seven million visitors a year. Seven million visitors a year. They come through our city, and they come to our downtown. They stop and for some reason, they love to take at their photographs, their wedding photographs right there in front of the library, in front of City Hall. So if you come on a Saturday and you get in line, you will see all these weddings that are taking place, for some reason, because it's so beautiful.

So the City of Azusa has always been the center of cultural hospitality, not only for our community now; but in the early years before Spanish was spoken here, before English was spoken here, the native people that lived in Azusa greeted those early settlers and brought them to our community of Azusa and provided them with the way to survive in this arid Southern California.

So we're asking for your generous support, knowing that it's a very competitive process and knowing that together we can create a greater California.

And I am asking one thing from the Board, particularly as we go through this process. There's a lot of frustration among the applicants with the changing rules and regulations and grading. And I'm asking for the Board to maybe make some policy decisions and give that direction to the staff and the staff could do that.

CHAIR STARR: Your Honor, there have been no changes of policy, no changes of criteria. The changes come from the increased -- the only change comes from the new competition. The criteria are the same. We haven't had -- the criteria is set, and Mr. Smith will tell you this -- the criteria is set in state statutory regulations. We don't change those things.

MS. MADRID: Maybe having consistent readers is maybe the difference then.

CHAIR STARR: Well, I admit, we had 53 people taken from our staff. If you'd like to solve that problem for me, I'd be delighted. I'll put ten people on each application, if you give me the people.

MS. MADRID: But just so they are consistent. I think if you have the consistency, that would be helpful for all the applicants because we're all --

CHAIR STARR: Well, policies are consistent; the difference was only one time we had four people; this time we had three. But the same policies, the same criteria, the same published criteria were followed. So there was no change of that.

To change that, under state law, we would have to take about 18 months to go

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment***

out to the public, propose new changes, have hearings, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. There were no changes in the criteria.

MS. MADRID: Okay, perhaps to have a clearer direction to the staff then.

CHAIR STARR: Well, I think you will find that each sequence is a live encounter. And then the third encounter you'll find that again, the same way. But there will be no change of criteria. Those were voted in, through the proper manner; approved by the Department of Administrative Law here, and we don't touch those things.

MS. MADRID: Thank you.

MS. HARPER: I'm Pat Harper, Siskiyou County library director. I'm here to support the Dorris Library Project. I just want to say, I'm overwhelmed by the support for this project in Dorris. I believe that's why we received an "outstanding" rating. You can see that the community needs this, the need is quite desperate; and that we really worked to meet the needs that they gave us.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: That's a beautiful presentation.

[Laughter]

MR. TRAVERSO: I'm Ed Traverso, superintendent of Butte Valley Unified School District. The City of Dorris is located there. It's a collaborative effort. We're looking forward to your vote today.

CHAIR STARR: Even better.

[Laughter]

MS. STANKE: Thank you, Dr. Starr. My name is Nicky Stanke. I'm the library director for Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library.

I'd like to begin by thanking the voters of California who passed the Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond in the year 2000; and thanking all of you for recognizing the central role that public libraries have in their communities, as both energizers and stabilizers. I have two projects that I'd like to address, that have been both rated "very good" for today's consideration.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

The rest of my delegation, unfortunately, had no chairs in the auditorium, and has been shunted around into various beehives throughout the building and are watching this on television.

First of all, Project Number 2047 is the Northeast Stockton Project. I'd like to point out that there are map developments on all sides of that project as we speak today. That this project will serve not only the high school that is on the contiguous piece of land, but also a different high school that's actually in a different district, less than a mile and a half away. These are the eighth and ninth high schools in the City of Stockton.

Most importantly, for the Northeast Stockton Branch Library, this branch will provide an anchor for this neighborhood. It will provide a common gathering place for the neighbors that are from all over the world -- Hmong, Cambodian, Spanish, Vietnamese, et cetera. In fact, I believe this library will be the beginning of the development of the social capital that will make that community a "community," which right now is just simply a gathering of houses.

The second project I'd like to address, also a "very good," is the County of San Joaquin, Manteca. The City of Manteca submitted a Project Number 2054. Manteca has a very high growth rate, as you've noted on the application. The project keeps the library central to that city, and has expanded the technology, which is impossible, currently, in the current facility; and with the new one, we will have much better access to the technology. We have enthusiastic support from that school district, particularly in our efforts to address school readiness and reading readiness, so that when the children come to school, they've already been interactive in a learning setting, with their parents. The schools were very keen on that and on the family literacy center.

So I thank you for your attention, your patience and your consideration today.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for that wonderful concept of the library providing social capital to a community. That's wonderful.

Yes, sir?

MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mike Cannon representing Lindsey Unified School District. The Tulare County librarian, Brian Lewis, and I talked about this, and we decided that since what we want to speak to primarily regards education, I should be the person to get up and do it.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

I'm speaking to the Lindsey Joint Use Library, 2039. You've already heard a great deal about the demographics of the farming communities, the Central California, so I won't belabor that. I will point out something unique about this particular project. This is not only a joint use project within the meanings of the State Library Bond Act. So far as we can tell, it is the only joint use project which also meets the requirement of the State Education Code, as defined, which allows for funding through the State School Bond Act.

The county and school district have spent a great deal of time making sure that, in fact, this is the case. Reviews both through the Department of General Services and the Attorney General's office to get to that point. So I would simply like to note that. And also to indicate that we would hope -- pardon me, I'm getting too old for this -- your consideration for this particular project may encourage some future districts and future library systems to do a true joint-use program.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Yes, Senator?

MEMBER ALPERT: If you are not awarded the grant in this, I just want to tell you that the joint use piece of the School Bond Facilities Act was actually undersubscribed.

MR. CANNON: Oh, yes, ma'am. We are very aware of that.

MEMBER ALPERT: So we would be really delighted to see your application there.

MR. CANNON: We have already run that through the staff of the Office of Public School Construction; and we have been told that we meet every criteria for that. As a matter of fact, the joint use agreement in this package is very specifically tailored to the requirements of the Education Code.

MEMBER ALPERT: Good. Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: You're not getting too old for this. You're doing very well.

MS. INGERSOLL: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr --

CHAIR STARR: Please.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MS. INGERSOLL: -- and Board Members.

My name is Diana Ingersoll. I'm with the City of Seaside, Seaside Library, Application 2058. I was here in the first cycle. We received an "acceptable" at that time. And I indicated to you that we would return; and we have returned. And we were rated a "very good."

However, I would like to let you know that we feel that our application is outstanding, in light of the spirit and intent of the proposition.

The location in which we are proposing that library is an excellent location. It's in the center, the heart of the city. It is a revitalization area. The parking that we would provide, the public transportation that is already there.

The existing library is bursting at its seams. We need a new library. We are serving a very diverse and very disadvantaged population, as I'm sure you've heard from everyone else. However, we feel very strongly that our application is "outstanding." We have met all of the requirements of the proposition.

And I would like to pass the hat over to Mayor Pro Tem Steve Bloomer to continue our portion.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am.

MR. BLOOMER: Thank you, Diana, and thank you, Chairman and Board Members. And thank you, staff.

I noticed in your presentation this evening, you made a very vivid attempt at geographically locating your granting methodologies, and who wins and who loses.

I would like to say at this point, the City of Seaside is here again, and our application has improved dramatically, as Diana has said. And with a 15,200 per capita, I think you folks need to consider us again.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor.

MS. LUTZ: Good evening. My name is Mary Ann Lutz.

CHAIR STARR: There's one more Seaside.

MS. LUTZ: Oh, I'm so sorry.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

CHAIR STARR: Two more.

Please, very brief.

MS. PAYNE: Yes, I will be. I promise.

I'm representing the Seaside Library. I'm the Seaside librarian. My name is Leslie Payne.

And I am offering you a two for one, because with the Bond Act we're considering the needs of urban and rural areas. And the City of Seaside is an urban area; but we, as the primary research center for the Monterey County Free Libraries, we are the largest library in the system. Although small, we're just 10,000 square feet. We provide library service to 127,000 registered borrowers, which is four times the size of our local city. Our county is 2,000 square miles. And we are the service center for the county.

We also have a growth potential. With the closing of Fort Ord, it's been hard on our economy and it's been hard on our growth statistics. When you look at our statistics, it looks like we haven't grown much. That's because a lot of our population went away when Fort Ord was closed. And we are replenishing the ranks. And there are 28,000 acres on Fort Ord that are going to be available for building. So we have a lot of potential and a lot of space.

And we would like you to consider the fact that there have been many libraries on the "outstanding" list and many that were funded in the first cycle, which have already received millions of dollars. There are counties that have already received millions of dollars.

Monterey County is yet to be funded; and we know that the Board wants to be fair and equitable. And in order to be fair and equitable, we feel that some money should go to communities that have not been considered.

And in particular, I'd like to just comment on one thing about our application. Our school district is unable to give us financial backing. They have joined us in many other ways but because of the closure of Fort Ord, because we've lost much of our population in funding, we don't have monetary contributions from our school district. And we would like and hope that you would think about those of us who do not have as much financial backing from our school district.

I know that the way you've looked at it is that, if the school district is going to do

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

their part, then there will be more success. But in our case, we really feel that because the school district cannot provide -- there are no librarians, except at the middle school and high school level. Because the school district cannot provide the library services that are needed, we need to do that in the public library.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you. You underscore a very important point. Of course, you realize that the bond issue specifies these school connections; and you're saying how difficult it is for some communities. And that's very important that you have underlined that.

Yes, please?

MS. DAWSON: Okay, I'm from the Friends of Seaside. I would just like to appeal to you to help make our dream a reality.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

That's the best presentation we've had today.

Your name, ma'am?

MS. LUTZ: Good evening. I'm Mary Ann Lutz. I am a councilperson from the City of Monrovia, which the application is 2015.

We have a one-lot -- one public library in our community of approximately 38,000 people. It was built in 1956, approximately 14,000 square feet.

At this time, we are literally bursting at the seams. Our library does a lot of work with our children. And there are days they can't fit all the children in the library to do the programs.

I'm going to just highlight one key element from our application, and that is our joint use project. We have a fabulous collaboration in our community between our city, our schools, our chamber of commerce businesses, and the community at large. This is typified in this project. Things such as a mobile literacy van that is a joint project of all those people, complete with fundraising activities from nonprofit organizations that will be a key component to this new library, as well as a homework and tutoring station and Internet between the school district and the library for the

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

students. We've got to have a commitment from the school district of two copies of every textbook in our library for their homework area, as well as a commitment from a nonprofit and from a business to give us all the money we need to do technology and get us the state of the art technology for our library.

We have a very low-income community with a very high rate of literacy, and unfortunately a very low-performing school district. This is the way our community can come together and build strong students and strong Californians.

I have for you a statement from Assembly Member Carol Liu, from the 44th District. To keep things brief, I'll just tell you that she strongly supports our library. We are in the "very good" category and would like every consideration you could give us for funding.

And just one more person to speak briefly.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Councilwoman.

MS. YOSHIDA: Thank you. Carrie Yoshida with Senator Bob Margett's office. I'd just like to say that Senator Margett is in strong support of this application and requests your favorable consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Senator Margett also has contacted me personally and then by letter with regard to this project.

MS. MASTERSON: My name is Lenore Masterson. I'm from Marina, California. That's not the Marina District of San Francisco; that's Marina, the gateway to the Monterey Peninsula.

You will be happy to know that I am the only speaker from Marina, and the only one representing Marina today.

I am representing the City of Marina and the City of Marina Larger Library Committee. This is a citizens' group. And I have personally been involved with it for the last seven years, to the detriment of my business and everything else. All the funds raised for this library project, from property, to the 100,000 dollars we spent for the last two grant proposals, was raised through the nickels and dimes and piggy banks and bricks that the people of Marina have spent to get this project off the ground.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

We were "very good" last year, and we scored even better this year; but there were only two items that seem to have kept us from being in the top rung. And I'd like to address those very quickly.

Like the City of Seaside, we were impacted by Fort Ord. And so our population statistics don't really show in the census the way they really exist. We had in 1980, 20,000 people. But half of those were single servicemen and servicemen's families.

In 1992, when the base closed, half those people got up and left, leaving 10,000 retired military in their path, most of them representing countries where the U.S. Army has been for the last 75 years. We actually have 200 languages spoken within the City of Marina.

Since then, 1992, we have 22,000 people, most of those are families with children. And I count that as a 120 percent increase in the civilian population. We have never had a library. We've had library services for 90 years; but we've never had a building to put them in. And this community is determined that we will have it now.

The other thing that kept us from being in the top category was some confusion about our school district participation. Again, like Seaside, we should have the same school district. And that school district was devastated by the closing of Fort Ord. It lost most of its significant income and it absorbed all of these new people with families. The enrollment is unbelievable. But they have no new facilities and no new funding.

Therefore, I think that when you look at what the school district is contributing to these joint projects, it's a higher percentage of their available resources than most of the districts in the state that have a better financial situation than ours.

We are ready for this project. We can start it tomorrow. We just need your help to finish it in a way that would give us a library that will see us for the next 20 years; to guarantee that we will have a future in Marina, as a legitimate civilian population with a library that can adequately serve the needs of a modern community.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you so much for your vivid presentation.

Sir?

MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Dr. Starr and honorable Board Members. I'm John

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

Adams, county librarian from the Orange County Library, speaking in support of our application for expansion of the Laguna Niguel Branch Library.

We'd like to begin by expressing our appreciation and sympathy to your Board, which is going to have to make some impossible decisions; and to Mr. Hall and his staff for their necessity to try and categorize some of these applications in which all of these projects before you are good ones.

We believe we understand the thinking behind them and the philosophy that requires and places a higher priority on new constructions rather than expansions. Certainly of the 50 projects categorized in Level 4 and Level 3, of those 50, two of them were expansions of existing buildings.

While our Laguna Niguel application is an expansion, it is, therefore, ranked as an "acceptable" application. We'd still like to ask the Board to consider funding it for two basic reasons.

The first is simply, it is a very, very important project, and a very good one. A 10,000 square foot facility, such as we have now, attempting to serve a city of 65,000 people, is woefully inadequate. Expanding that facility to 30,000 square feet will provide greater collections, greater computer access, more study space, greater space for programming; and it will be an asset not just for the City of Laguna Niguel, but also for the entire 600,000 people in South Orange County, by providing them with a resource.

The proposal also will enhance library service for students and for the general population of the area due to the Capistrano Unified School District's commitment to relocate their college and career placement center to this new library, where the assistance and resources of that will be available to the whole community, seven days a week.

The second point we'd like to make is just simply to correct perhaps a misperception, which is why we also think we deserve some consideration. Orange County and Laguna Niguel may be considered as wealthy, rich areas; and there is no question, there are a lot of prosperous people there with a lot of income who pay a lot of taxes. But given the Byzantine methods of funding local government in California these days, there is an irony to the fact that local government services in the area are quite underfunded. The County of Orange, under the distribution rules, gets 46 dollars per capita from its property taxes paid in the area, versus a median state number of 120 dollars for most counties.

CHAIR STARR: There are no social income criteria in the Bond Act, Mr.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment***

Adams; so I wouldn't beat a dead horse.

MR. ADAMS: No, I understand that. In fact, we were simply -- since the City of Laguna Niguel retains 2 percent as opposed to a 15 percent average in property tax, et cetera, et cetera, we simply wanted to state that we congratulate all those projects that have been ranked "outstanding," we're delighted to help pay them; and we hope that this board might consider a little of that money staying in Orange County.

I thank you very much.

And let me introduce my colleague from the Capistrano Unified School District, Mr. Ron Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: Very briefly. The Capistrano School District is a low-wealth school district. In spite of that, we've built 25 schools in the last ten years to house the burgeoning enrollment in that area. We, however, only have one certified librarian in that whole school district of over 50,000 students. We rely heavily upon the public libraries to provide library services. The City of Laguna Niguel has no high school in that city. The cities of Dana Point and Aliso Viejo, the surrounding cities have school libraries. Students who live in the Laguna Niguel area don't have any library but the Laguna Niguel Library. So we would appreciate your support for the project.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MR. CASEY: One more?

CHAIR STARR: Laguna Niguel?

MR. CASEY: Tim Casey, city manager of Laguna Niguel. Three very quick points.

The city is the third member of this partner project. If you approve the grant, we're the provider of the local matching and supplemental funds to the tune of about three and a half million dollars. That's about 20 percent of our annual general fund budget, a substantial commitment from our city council to this project.

Secondly, libraries need to go and grow with how the population goes and

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

grows. Laguna Niguel was the fastest growing community in Orange County during the eighties and early nineties. The application material shows about 439 percent population explosion from 1980 through 2020. Actually, it's all occurred from 1980 to 2003. Please consider that.

Finally, please don't forget the renovation part of the Act. There are eight renovation projects. For some reason, none were "outstanding." Only two were "very good." Six were considered "acceptable." If you take a look at the funds requested from those eight applicants, compared to the ultimate projects those funds will build, the renovation projects are the most efficient use of state dollars.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you. Thank you, City Manager.

Mr. Hall, if and when we get to discussion of possible voting, remind us if the projects are renovation projects; in other words, if you think we need to be guided by that.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. DONNELAN TODD: Members of the Board, I am Margaret Donnelan Todd, the county librarian, for the County of Los Angeles Public Library.

I will be the only one speaking on this particular project. We've submitted, you've already heard, our other project, Lawndale. This is the San Gabriel Valley. But I know that you realize that there are thousands of people standing behind me in our communities as we speak.

Our assembly and state senators whose citizens will be served by this project are strongly in support of it, as are our school districts and all our community groups.

This really is a unique solution to an overwhelming need for increased library service. As you saw in your documents, we've had tremendous growth in this area, serving two unincorporated areas, Hacienda Heights, Roland Heights, and the City of La Habra Heights. In addition, we have now become one of the three most diverse communities in Los Angeles County. So in this application, we've clearly documented that we are serving, of course, our long-time Latino and Anglo populations; but in addition, making plans to be able to serve our rich culture of our Asian citizens that have now moved into our community.

In a heavily-developed area, we also found a unique solution to site. We have placed this in the entrance of a 583-acre park, most of which is a wilderness park. It backs up to the Puente Hills wildlife corridor, which is unique in Southern California.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

Because of that, we're going to be able to do tremendous innovative programming with our parks department, as well as the ecological and environment community groups.

The school districts have been enthusiastic in their support. They have, as you can see from the documents and the signed agreements we have, been very generous in their donations of computers and other materials. We also have, as you can see in the documentation, instituted a yearly seminar evaluation where all groups will meet and discuss how to strengthen the service, and make sure it continues to be current for the 21st century.

Finally, I would just want to stress with you that Los Angeles County Public Library continues to receive the highest possible ratings for customer service and service to our communities. We are known for our ability to develop unique service standards for each of our unique communities. So that is the promise I can make to you: That this will be an "outstanding" project. And although the rating is "very good," I really would say to you as a board, I would hope you would look at the documentation and consider it, the outstanding project that it is.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mrs. Todd.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. I'm Carol McLaughlin, assistant to the city manager for the City of La Mesa, here to speak on Project Number 2029, the La Mesa Community Library Project.

La Mesa was actually going to have twelve people here today, eight of whom wanted to speak. So you should be thrilled that they did not come. The reason is, of course, because of the fires in San Diego County, which affected many of us, either personally or professionally, and because our elected officials felt that they should stay in La Mesa. So we changed our plans and I came alone. But I am armed with the notes of what everybody wanted to say; but I will be as brief as possible.

First of all, we were all going to wear these cool badges that I'm wearing, that says, "La Mesa Community library: Together, we will make it happen." We also had the coolest seat-saver signs over here. No sticky notes or taped-on pieces of paper for us. And the third thing we were going to do is have a bunch of our people stand up and unfurl this 12-foot banner that, in just about a week's time, people at the current La Mesa Library wrote down their thoughts on needing a new library in La Mesa.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

We also were all going to stand up and hold up all these pictures, which I hope you received and we did send copies to each of the Board Members. And it's got a bunch of school kids, showing -- it says, "Help, La Mesa needs a new library." It was meant to be a humorous picture. We've got people on the roof. We've got a sign that reads "One hour wait from this point." So it was kind of a humorous look at it. But the overcrowding situation at our library is far from humorous.

The current La Mesa Library is one of the most heavily used in the San Diego County Library System, yet the branch is only 7,900 square feet; while other top San Diego County Library branches in circulation average more than 27,000 square feet.

One of the people who was going to speak to you today was an assistant superintendent from Grossmont Union High School District; and he was going to tell you about our joint use agreement between the city and the school district to operate a homework center and a computer lab. He would have told you that a unique aspect of our agreement is an innovative program that's going to use one of La Mesa's "outstanding" resources: Our older citizens; and pairing of trained senior citizen volunteer and high school students in an enhanced tutoring and homework assistance program to be held at the new library.

Then we were going to have the superintendent of La Mesa Spring Valley School District tell you that, even though he is a superintendent with only a few months' tenure, he has not yet had an opportunity to discuss with La Mesa's also new city manager, Sandy Curl, about the potential for a strategic partnership between the city and his district that would extend the formal education programs proposed for the new library's homework center to children from La Mesa's elementary and middle schools.

CHAIR STARR: I see you have two single-space typewritten pages there.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: I'll be quick. I promise, I'll be quick.

CHAIR STARR: You are doing a good job. I'm just concerned -- remember the "Smurfs" in Star Trek that multiplied? I see these lines of people multiplying, the people coming in.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: I'll talk faster. I can talk fast.

CHAIR STARR: We all read the applications and the statistics. I think the most effective presentations, in my opinion, are the ones that go to the cultural, social, moral, psychological drama of the library.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Okay. Well, we were going to have Dr. Omero Suarez who is the Chancellor of Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District; and he would have imparted to you that the proposal for the La Mesa Community Library, with its age-appropriate learning spaces and vibrant public areas for meetings, performances, and art will allow the library to fulfill its role as the community center for education, information, the arts and culture.

And we were also going to have two students with us: A ten-year-old elementary school student and a high school student, who wanted to share with you the reasons why older children and teens don't use the library. And the reason is that it doesn't provide the resources that kids need to work on projects, nor does it provide an adequate place for them to gather and study together that isn't disruptive for other library patrons.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Can I just wrap up, just real quickly?

CHAIR STARR: Yes, you may.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Our vice-mayor wanted to talk to you about the location for our proposed site, because, I think it's an excellent site, and we've got an "outstanding" rating on that. It's at the heart of the La Mesa Civic Center, a neighborhood with a mix of uses: Employment, housing, retail, civic uses. It's on the bus line. It's on the light rail line. It's easy walking, biking, driving distance for everybody.

And finally, our city manager would have told you that we're ready to go on this project. I know that there's at least one project that was funded in the first round that is now having difficulty coming up with a 35 percent match. And city manager Sandy Curl would want to tell you that we are ready to go because the majority of our 35 percent match is in the value of the land that the city is donating for the project.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much.

And don't be offended if I moved you along a little bit.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: That's okay.

CHAIR STARR: Yes, ma'am?

MS. HOOLIHAN: Dr. Starr and Members of the Board, it is really heartwarming

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

to hear all of this support for libraries --

CHAIR STARR: Your name is, ma'am?

MS. HOOLIHAN: Oh, I'm going to give that in a second.

CHAIR STARR: All right.

MS. HOOLIHAN: And the role they play in building and enhancing our communities.

I'm Maggie Hoolihan. I'm deputy mayor of the City of Encinitas. And I'm a retiree of the UC San Diego Library System where I served as the undergraduate instructional and outreach coordinator.

We live in the information age; but nationwide, our students are entering colleges and universities without the necessary research and critical thinking skills.

This Bond Act specifically targets K through 12 literacy improvement through public library, city and public school partnerships. And Encinitas project will realize this goal. We are working with the San Diegito High School and the Encinitas Elementary School Districts, our San Diego County Library. And in doing this, we have entered into this partnership to provide a state-of-the-art information literacy lab and model program in which teachers and librarians will work together to implement grade-appropriate curriculum and technology, focused on teaching students how to accurately identify their information needs, find the appropriate materials, evaluate and apply the information found, and then organize these facts and information into a coherent product.

Our experience at UCSD, which is a top-rated university, shows that our students also lack these critical skills. Working together, we will create the opportunity for our K through 12 students in Encinitas to access educational support during and after schools. Our project will provide the library support lacking in our schools. The new library will provide the facility, as well as the opportunity to merge public library services with school curriculums and technology through adoption of information literacy standards and training for teachers, for the educational staff for our K through 12 students and their parents -- very important, and the general public in research methods and the use of on-line resources.

We look forward to sharing our program with other school districts and library partnerships.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

I firmly believe that public libraries are the cornerstone of democracy. And this program that we've outlined in our application will enable our public school students to navigate effectively the world of knowledge to meet their myriad information needs and hopefully to embrace lifelong learning.

We hope that you will support our application and thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am.

MS. HOOLIHAN: And Rick King, our project manager, has a few brief words.

Thank you again.

CHAIR STARR: Very briefly, Mr. King, since such an eloquent presentation was just made.

MR. KING: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR STARR: Do value added to that. Don't just repeat what she says.

MR. KING: I certainly will.

CHAIR STARR: All right.

MR. KING: Being chastised.

Good afternoon and thank you for your time.

My name is Richard King. I am a consultant for and speaking on behalf of the Encinitas project.

The scores are in, the tabulations have been made. The scores sometimes, in unique circumstances, do not allow the reflection of the unique opportunities and special challenges that face this Board.

The Encinitas Library is a cherished opportunity in the state. There are few examples where a site can truly inspire: Scripps, the Salk Institute, and if this library has a site which is that inspiring, it can't be scored. That's why we come before you. Please, consider the inspiration that a community that voted an initiative and had to pass selection of this site has provided you for funding this project.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

We appreciate it.

CHAIR STARR: Sir, that is really value-added commentary. Thank you very much.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. PIERCE: Thank you. Barbara Pierce, Redwood City. I'm torching the speech and taking to heart what you've instructed. So I would like to leave you with four central ideas about Redwood City.

Redwood Shores is one of our major neighborhoods. It is geographically isolated by two miles of coast area, of freeway and R & D development buildings. So it is separated, it has a new elementary school but no library. Its community members feel this isolation. The elementary school students go across the freeway to go to a library in another town, they go to middle school there, they go to high school there. There is no sense of community.

With the grant proposal and the process that you've provided to us, you have engaged our community and brought them together for a discussion that really talked about the needs of seniors, the needs of students and family members. And out of this came our proposal, which you rated as "outstanding" and for which we thank you very much.

We believe we have a history of collaboration. We've done it with a high school district, an elementary school district; we've done after-school programs and fields; and we know we can do this, and we would appreciate your support.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you. And your image of children having to cross a freeway to use a library is very eloquent. It's the kind of value-added testimony this board appreciates.

Yes, sir?

Sir, are you with Redwood Shores?

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Shaking head.)

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

MR. WARFIELD: Good afternoon, my name is Peter Warfield from San Francisco. I'm a library user.

With regard to Project Number 2035, while I do support certain goals --

CHAIR STARR: This is the Richmond Branch?

MR. WARFIELD: This is the Richmond Branch. While I do support certain goals, such as ADA accessibility and earthquake strengthening, I'm very troubled by certain aspects of this project. In a very busy library, with a lot of users visiting and a lot of borrowing, this project is an 8-million-dollar project, providing a 40 percent floor space increase. But and a cut in reader seating by 11 percent, and a very small increase, only in books, 14 percent. In fact, if you look closer into the library's application, buried within one of the sections is mentioned that certain selected parts of the collection will be cut in order to balance -- in other words, increase certain other parts' percentages.

How does this compare with what people have told the library repeatedly they want?

Essentially, it's the opposite of what they asked. Repeatedly, people in San Francisco have told the library they want, above all else, more books; and second, more reader seating. And yet there's a cut in reader seats and a very small increase in books.

By contrast, people want a moderate increase in computers and a very small -- the last thing they want is community-room increase. These are increasing by 150 percent, and 87 percent respectively.

So I'm very troubled by the priorities of people as they have been expressed, not being followed in San Francisco. Does everyone support this? Certainly not.

Unfortunately, the library has not always been straightforward in informing people exactly what is happening. For example, in the standard publicity vehicles of the library, the seating reduction has not been mentioned, and the minimal book increases -- in fact, a book deemphasis has not been mentioned. And certainly the cuts that are planned have not been mentioned. So I'm very concerned about these and hope that you would look closely at these unfortunate figures.

I've also sent you a letter to all of the Members.

Thanks very much.

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

CHAIR STARR: Thank you for your testimony.

This is the Richmond Branch?

MS. DOYLE: Yes, it is. My name is Debra Doyle. I'm chair of the Friends of the Library. I'm also the past chair of the Bay Area Library Information Systems Advisory Board, so I'm on the regional library board.

There have been so many community meetings in the Richmond Branch. In fact, on Saturday, there was a town hall meeting, mostly about the library; and it was wall-to-wall people. The library has been incredibly responsive to the needs of the community. And, in fact, there have been days and days of charettes. Certainly not everybody is pleased. But in balance, this is an amazing expansion project of a beautiful old Carnegie; and I hope that you'll give it your support.

In fact, there's something that hasn't -- another point that hasn't been made about this library. The Richmond Branch is one of the hub libraries in San Francisco.

MS. DOYLE: And we have a number of libraries, and there are a lot of neighborhoods, and people love their specific neighborhoods. But this one really feeds a lot of the other branches. I live about a mile and a half away, and I use this branch fairly regularly.

It was neck and neck with the Chinatown Branch in usage a few years ago; and when the Chinatown Branch was renovated a few years ago, its usage astronomically increased. And we know that that will happen with the Richmond Branch as well.

But another thing, the San Francisco Public Library is a regional resource. And if you strengthen -- if we strengthen the branches of San Francisco, then the system becomes stronger and Bay Area libraries become stronger. The San Francisco Public Library is such a resource for libraries all over California, in fact. And we hope that you will take the regional needs into account as you consider strengthening a major urban library system.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you so much.

Yes, sir?

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

MR. TOWNSEND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Christopher Townsend. I'm here to speak briefly on behalf of Application 2017, the Prewett Library Project in the City of Antioch. This is located in eastern Contra Costa County. It's in the districts of Senator Tom Torlakson and Assembly Member Canciamilla, both of whom couldn't be here to testify today but who have enthusiastically endorsed and supported the project, have submitted letters to the Board and I believe they may have put in phone calls as well.

I'm also joined by assistant city manager Bill Gegg, who is actually the project director for the library, who was going to make a presentation, which I've asked him to shelve in the interest of time and just wave and say "hi."

The one point we would like to make, it appears that you'll have to reach into the pool of "very good" candidates to round out your funding. We just were one point shy of making the "outstanding" category.

City Councilman Arnie Simonson is here to very briefly make his point why he thinks we would be deserving to be one of the finally funded projects.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

City Councilman, before the city manager leaves, for a second. You sacrificed your time.

MR. GEGG: Yes, sir.

CHAIR STARR: One, three, just give me in ten, fifteen words, why we should do this library.

MR. GEGG: This library will create a new focus point for Contra Costa.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you. Very good.

City Councilman?

MR. SIMONSON: I'm just wondering how much money I paid him to say that.

[Laughter]

MR. SIMONSON: Anyhow, this application is not a case of wanting libraries, it's a case of needing it. And I'm going to use his line every time I have a chance. When our original library was built in 1968, our population was 20,000. We are

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

currently over 100,000. And we are now the fourth largest city in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We've got 11 million dollars standing by in Mello-Roos joint use money with our school district to match the grant money. The most important thing, however, is looking at the operation and maintenance side. And the city is worrying about the ERAF shift, what the triple flip is going to do to us or what's going to happen with the VLF funding. In the City of Antioch, we have 15 million dollars standing by in dedicated developer money, that is dedicated solely to the operation and maintenance of this library.

The application indicates that you're only looking at the City Antioch; but we look at ourselves as a region, with the cities of Brentwood, Oakley, Pittsburg and the City of Antioch. And that's a population of 250,000 people.

The existing library is across the street from our first high school, which now has over 3,000 students. Our new high school has 4,000 students. And this new library would be located directly across the street from them. We're in the process of building a third high school --

Yes, sir?

CHAIR STARR: 7,000 students within walking distance of the library?

MR. SIMONSON: 4,000.

CHAIR STARR: 4,000?

MR. SIMONSON: Yes. The actual number is 3,800 something. We've rounded it out because we're going to have more, until the third high school is built.

Additionally, portions of the Liberty High School District which in our easterly city of Brentwood and Oakley, also borders into Antioch. And Liberty High School is within striking distance of using that, because of the transit system from Tri-Delta Transit.

But more importantly, I want you to look at an extra credit point. It's something we all learn in school, is to try to get something over and above. When California was having the energy crisis, the cities of Antioch and Pittsburg came to California's aid, and we have two power plants that were just built, a third one is being built and the fourth one is in the process. We will now have a total of 11 power plants. The wonderful cities that are here, their lights are staying on because of the City of

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

Antioch and Pittsburg. And I would ask that the Board would take that into consideration.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Councilman.

And are you from Antioch, sir?

MR. Alaniz: No, I'm getting all choked up here.

Dr. Kevin Starr, Members of the Board, I'm Miguel Alaniz; and I'm representing Councilman Eloy Morales from the City of Inglewood.

Inglewood has a unique distinction in the library, addressing the cultural, social gathering place. The library is a neutral ground for 30 registered gangs in the City of Inglewood. Every time the police pull over a gang member, they register them. When they come to our library, they actually don't fight. It's one of those places that's unique in our city.

It's also, when our building was put up in the early 1970's, it was an architectural statement. You know what that means? That means there were some real flaws. The entrance to the library is on the second floor. So we don't meet ADA requirements.

Okay, the building is structurally unsound. We have seismic issues. We are located directly between -- talking about populations of students -- a high school, a middle school, and within walking distance of five elementary schools. We have 21 bus stops within a half a mile. We're in a civic center complex. We have traffic down Manchester Boulevard that's about 300,000 vehicles a day.

Computer use is very important in our city because it's a low-income community. Most surveys will tell you that saturation in the local communities is about 50 percent. In ours, it's below 25. That's because of the low economic conditions.

I ask for your support and your consideration, even though we're only rated as "acceptable" because we are renovation; we're not a new library. I just ask you for that consideration.

And I thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: I think your testimony in relationship to the local gang life and

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
October 28, 2003, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment***

its affects has been very dramatic, and we appreciate that.

Sir?

MR. NOWICKI: Mr. Chairman, board members; my name is Dennis Nowicki. I am the mayor of Hesperia. Please excuse my scratchy voice. I am fighting a cold. I'll keep my comments very brief.

Hesperia's application went from "very good" to "outstanding," thanks to the mentoring on the part of your staff, working with our staff.

I will keep my comments to the very core of the issue.

Currently, Hesperia has no city library. We put together an excellent joint use collaborative effort. We will be experiencing substantial population growth as the application articulates. Oh, we currently own the site and we've committed 2.3 million dollars in matching funds to begin the project immediately.

Our technology element will be state of the art and for this. This project is just as important to our community as the projects are for any of the other folks here today.

I want to thank you for listening to us. Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor; and congratulations on the "outstanding" category.

[Applause]

CHAIR STARR: Now I'm going to -- that concludes over 99 to 100 people testified.